

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019



United Nations



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The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019



United Nations
New York, 2019

Foreword

Since its inception in 2015, the 2030 Agenda has provided a blueprint for shared prosperity in a sustainable world—a world where all people can live productive, vibrant and peaceful lives on a healthy planet. The year 2030 is just over a decade away, and we must ask ourselves if our actions today are laying the right foundation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019* provides evidence-based insights to answer this question.


The report demonstrates that progress is being made in some critical areas, and that some favorable trends are evident. Extreme poverty has declined considerably, the under-5 mortality rate fell by 49 per cent between 2000 and 2017, immunizations have saved millions of lives, and the vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity. Countries are taking concrete actions to protect our planet: marine protected areas have doubled since 2010; countries are working concertedly to address illegal fishing; 186 parties have ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change, and almost all have communicated their first nationally determined contributions. About 150 countries have developed national policies to respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization, and 71 countries and the European Union now have more than 300 policies and instruments supporting sustainable consumption and production. And a wide range of other actors—international organizations, businesses, local authorities, the scientific community and civil society—have engaged with the SDGs in a manner that generates great hope for the coming decade. The United Nations, for its part, is working hard to reposition to the United Nations development system to be better equipped to meet the needs of governments to respond to this integrated and transformative agenda.

Notwithstanding that progress, this report identifies many areas that need urgent collective attention. The natural environment is deteriorating at an alarming rate: sea levels are rising; ocean acidification is accelerating; the past four years have been the warmest on record; one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction; and land degradation continues unchecked. We are also moving too slowly in our efforts to end human suffering and create

opportunity for all: our goal to end extreme poverty by 2030 is being jeopardized as we struggle to respond to entrenched deprivation, violent conflicts and vulnerabilities to natural disasters. Global hunger is on the rise, and at least half of the world's population lacks essential health services. More than half of the world's children do not meet standards in reading and mathematics; only 28 per cent of persons with severe disabilities received cash benefits; and women in all parts of the world continue to face structural disadvantages and discrimination.

It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals. From our advances, we know what works. This report therefore highlights areas that can drive progress across all 17 SDGs: financing; resilience; sustainable and inclusive economies; more effective institutions; local action; better use of data; and harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation. In everything we do, we must diligently ensure that policy choices leave no one behind, and that national efforts are supported by effective international cooperation, grounded in a commitment to diplomacy and crisis prevention.

The SDG Summit, the Climate Action Summit and the other crucial meetings that will take place in New York in September 2019 provide leaders everywhere with an opportunity to get the world back on track and to kick-start a decade of delivery for people and the planet. The time is right, and we must act now. In that spirit, I commend this report to a wide global audience.



António GUTERRES
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

Introduction

Four years after signing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries have taken action to integrate the Goals and targets into their national development plans and to align policies and institutions behind them. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019* uses the latest available data to track global progress on the SDGs and to take stock of how far we have come in realizing our commitments. The report shows that, while advances have been made in some areas, monumental challenges remain. The evidence and data spotlight areas that require urgent attention and more rapid progress to realize the 2030 Agenda's far-reaching vision.

Member States agree that these challenges and commitments are interrelated and call for integrated solutions. It is therefore imperative to take a holistic view of the 2030 Agenda and to identify the highest impact areas in order to target interventions.

The most urgent area for action is climate change. If we do not cut record-high greenhouse gas emissions now, global warming is projected to reach 1.5°C in the coming decades. As we are already seeing, the compounded effects will be catastrophic and irreversible: increasing ocean acidification, coastal erosion, extreme weather conditions, the frequency and severity of natural disasters, continuing land degradation, loss of vital species and the collapse of ecosystems. These effects, which will render many parts of the globe uninhabitable, will affect the poor the most. They will put food production at risk, leading to widespread food shortages and hunger, and potentially displace up to 140 million people by 2050. The clock for taking decisive actions on climate change is ticking.

The other defining issue of our time is increasing inequality among and within countries. Poverty, hunger and disease continue to be concentrated in the poorest and most vulnerable groups of people and countries. Over 90 per cent of maternal deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Three quarters of all stunted children live in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. People living in fragile States are twice as likely to lack basic sanitation, and about four times as likely to lack basic drinking water services as people in non-fragile situations. Youth are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Women and girls perform a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work and lack autonomy in decision-making.

Just as problems are interrelated, the solutions to poverty, inequality, climate change and other global challenges are also interlinked. Valuable opportunities exist to accelerate progress by examining interlinkages across Goals. For example, tackling climate change

requires a shift to clean energy, reversing the trend in forest loss, and changing our production and consumption patterns. Promoting sustainable agriculture can help reduce both hunger and poverty, since close to 80 per cent of those who are extremely poor live in rural areas. Increasing access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene can save millions of lives per year and improve school attendance. Improving proficiency in reading and mathematics of some 200 million children who are falling behind in sub-Saharan Africa will help them climb out of poverty and ultimately enable the region to better compete in the global marketplace.

This report also highlights the importance of investing in data for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Most countries do not regularly collect data for more than half of the global indicators. The lack of accurate and timely data on many marginalized groups and individuals makes them "invisible" and exacerbates their vulnerability. While considerable effort has been made to address these data gaps over the past four years, progress has been limited. Increased investment is urgently needed to ensure that adequate data are available to inform decision-making on all aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Towards that end, the Dubai Declaration, launched at the second World Data Forum in October 2018, outlines a demand-driven funding mechanism under Member States' oversight that will respond quickly and efficiently to the priorities of national statistical systems.

The challenges highlighted in this report are global problems that require global solutions. No country or individual can resolve them in isolation. In other words, multilateral action is more important than ever. Remarkably, we have already seen how the 2030 Agenda has brought disparate groups together to work towards common goals. International cooperation on climate change, migration, technology, trade and partnerships with all stakeholders can be strengthened even further with the facilitation of the United Nations system. There is still time for us to achieve the SDGs if we act now and act together, taking advantage of the many synergies that exist across the 2030 Agenda.

Liu Zhenmin

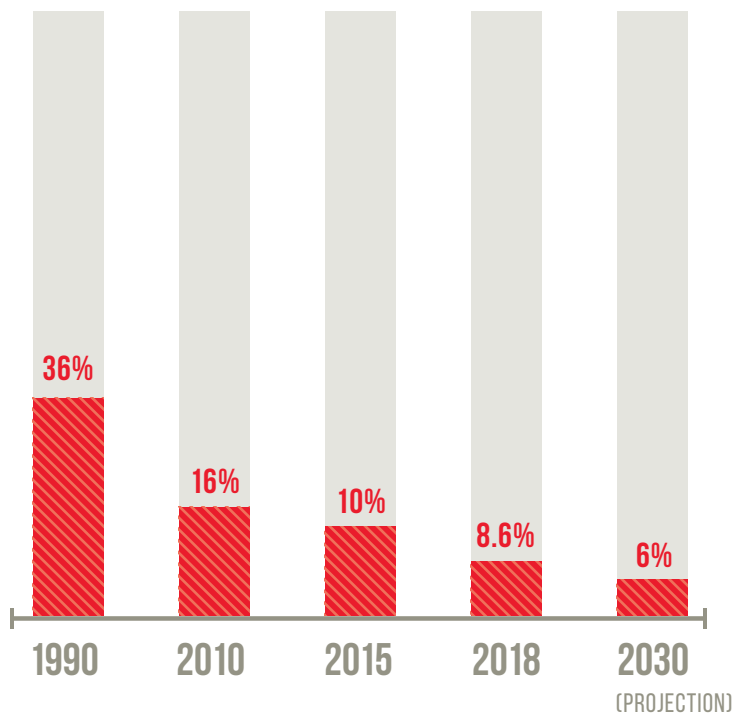
Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs

1 NO POVERTY



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

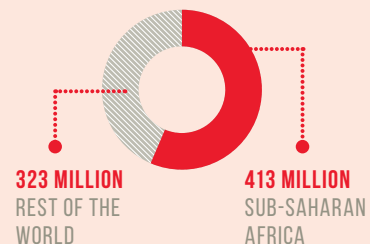
THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO END POVERTY BY 2030



55%

OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION HAVE NO ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

736 MILLION PEOPLE LIVED IN EXTREME POVERTY IN 2015, 413 MILLION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



MORE THAN 90% OF DEATHS DUE TO DISASTERS OCCUR IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



MILLIONS MORE ARE LIVING IN HUNGER



821 MILLION
WERE UNDERNOURISHED
IN 2017

UP FROM

784 MILLION
IN 2015

TWO THIRDS
OF EXTREMELY POOR
EMPLOYED WORKERS
WORLDWIDE ARE
AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS



TWO THIRDS
OF UNDERNOURISHED
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
LIVE IN TWO REGIONS:

SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA



237 MILLION

SOUTHERN
ASIA



277 MILLION



22% (149 MILLION)
OF CHILDREN
UNDER 5
ARE STUNTED



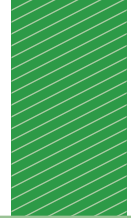
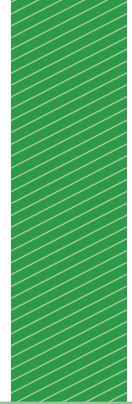
7.3% (49 MILLION)
OF CHILDREN
UNDER 5
ARE AFFECTED
BY WASTING



5.9% (40 MILLION)
OF CHILDREN
UNDER 5
ARE OVERWEIGHT



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



UNDER-5 DEATHS DROPPED FROM

9.8 MILLION IN 2000

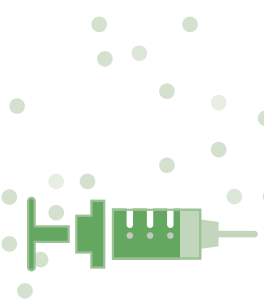
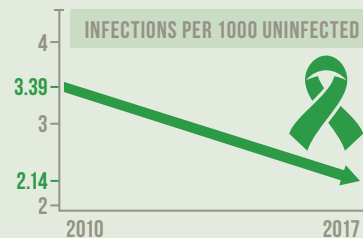
TO

5.4 MILLION IN 2017



THE TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE RATE DECLINED BY **21%** BETWEEN 2000 AND 2017; NONETHELESS **10 MILLION** PEOPLE DEVELOPED TUBERCULOSIS IN 2017

THE INCIDENCE OF **HIV** AMONG ADULTS 15-49 YEARS OLD IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DECLINED BY **37%** BETWEEN 2010 AND 2017



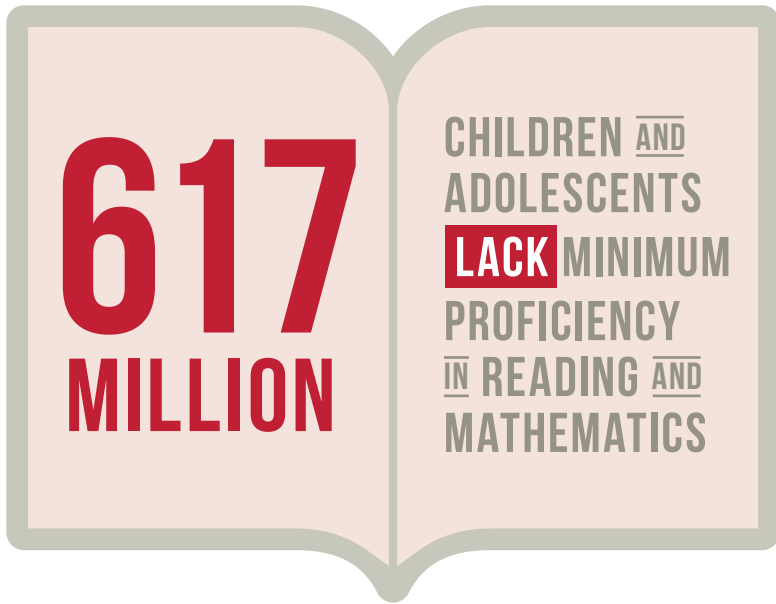
VACCINATIONS RESULTED IN AN **80% DROP** IN MEASLES DEATHS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2017

THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED **3.5 MILLION MORE MALARIA CASES** IN THE 10 HIGHEST-BURDEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN 2017 COMPARED TO 2016





ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



750 MILLION ADULTS STILL REMAIN ILLITERATE

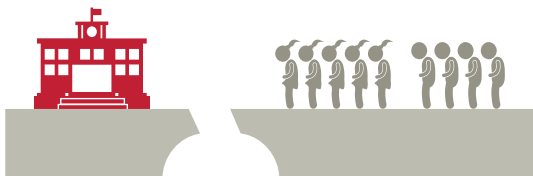


MORE THAN HALF OF THE SCHOOLS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO

- BASIC DRINKING WATER
- HANDWASHING FACILITIES
- THE INTERNET
- COMPUTERS



1 OUT OF **5** CHILDREN BETWEEN 6 AND 17 YEARS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL



IN CENTRAL ASIA, **27%** MORE GIRLS THAN BOYS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL

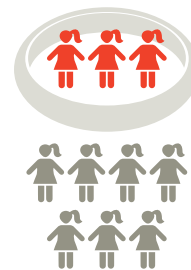


ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

18% 

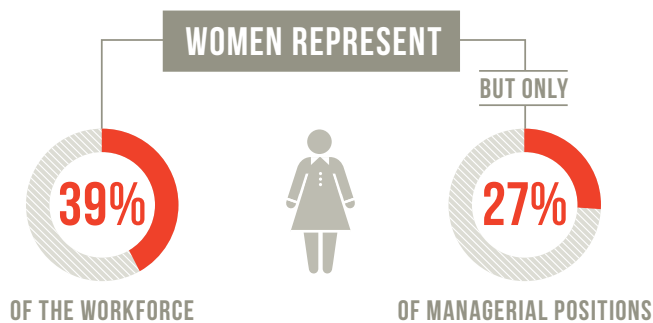
OF EVER-PARTNERED WOMEN AND GIRLS AGED **15 TO 49** YEARS HAVE EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL **PARTNER VIOLENCE** IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

IN SOUTHERN ASIA, A GIRL'S RISK OF MARRYING IN CHILDHOOD HAS DECREASED BY **40%** SINCE 2000



STILL, **30%** OF WOMEN AGED 20 TO 24 YEARS WERE MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18 (2018)

24% OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE WOMEN AN INCREASE FROM 19% (2010) 



AT LEAST **200 MILLION** GIRLS AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION





ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



785 MILLION
PEOPLE REMAIN
WITHOUT EVEN
BASIC DRINKING WATER
SERVICES (2017)



2 OUT OF 5
PEOPLE
WORLDWIDE
DO NOT HAVE
= A BASIC =
HANDWASHING
FACILITY WITH
SOAP AND WATER
AT HOME (2017)

1 OUT OF 4

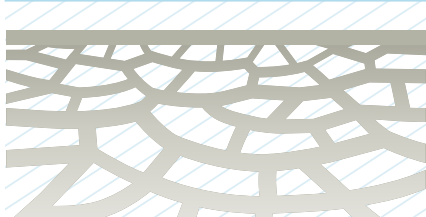
HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES
WORLDWIDE LACK BASIC
DRINKING WATER SERVICES
(2016)



BY 2030,
700 MILLION
PEOPLE COULD BE
DISPLACED BY
INTENSE
WATER SCARCITY

673 MILLION
PEOPLE (9% OF THE
GLOBAL POPULATION)
STILL PRACTISE
OPEN DEFECCATION
(2017)

THE MAJORITY OF THEM
ARE IN **SOUTHERN ASIA**



2 BILLION PEOPLE LIVE
IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING
HIGH WATER STRESS



ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

9 OUT OF **10** PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
HAVE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY



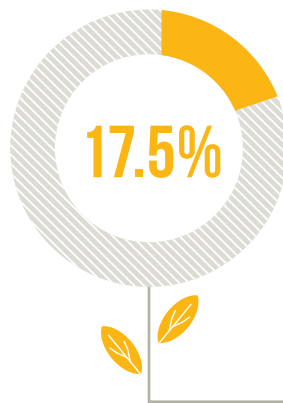
87%
OF THE
840 MILLION
PEOPLE WITHOUT
ELECTRICITY LIVE IN
RURAL AREAS

ON AVERAGE,
2.3%

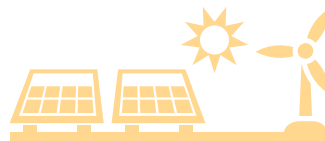
LESS ENERGY
WAS NEEDED TO CREATE



OF ECONOMIC OUTPUT
EACH YEAR
(2010–2016)



17.5%
OF TOTAL FINAL ENERGY
CONSUMPTION COMES FROM
RENEWABLE ENERGY

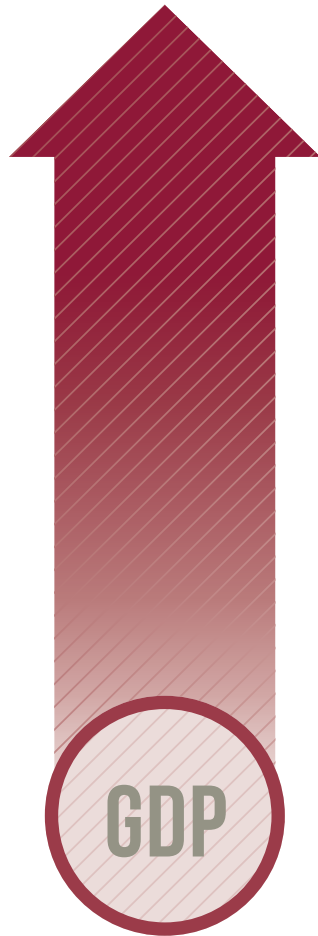


3 BILLION

PEOPLE LACK
CLEAN COOKING FUELS
AND TECHNOLOGY



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



REAL GDP GREW BY **4.8%** ANNUALLY IN LDCs (2010–2017), LESS THAN THE **7% SDG TARGET**

MEDIAN HOURLY PAY OF MEN IS **12% HIGHER** THAN THAT OF WOMEN



THE GLOBAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS **5%** (2018)

ONE FIFTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE **ARE NOT IN**

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING



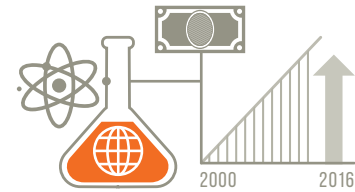
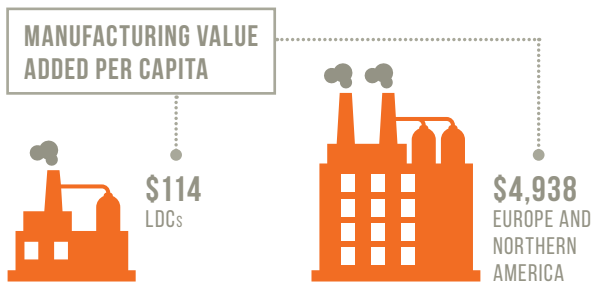
IN 2018, **LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY** INCREASED BY **2.1%** FROM 2017: THE HIGHEST ANNUAL GROWTH SINCE 2010



BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

INDUSTRIALIZATION IN LDCs IS TOO SLOW

TO MEET THE 2030 AGENDA TARGET

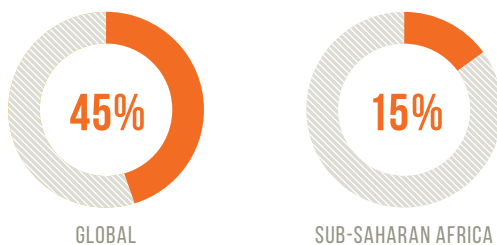


GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS

\$2 TRILLION
(2016), UP FROM
\$739 BILLION
(2000)

MEDIUM-HIGH AND HIGH-TECH SECTORS

ACCOUNT FOR 45% OF THE GLOBAL MANUFACTURING VALUE ADDED (2016), BUT THE SHARE IS ONLY 15% IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



90%
OF PEOPLE LIVE WITHIN
RANGE OF A 3G OR
HIGHER QUALITY
MOBILE NETWORK (2018),

**BUT NOT ALL CAN
AFFORD TO USE IT**



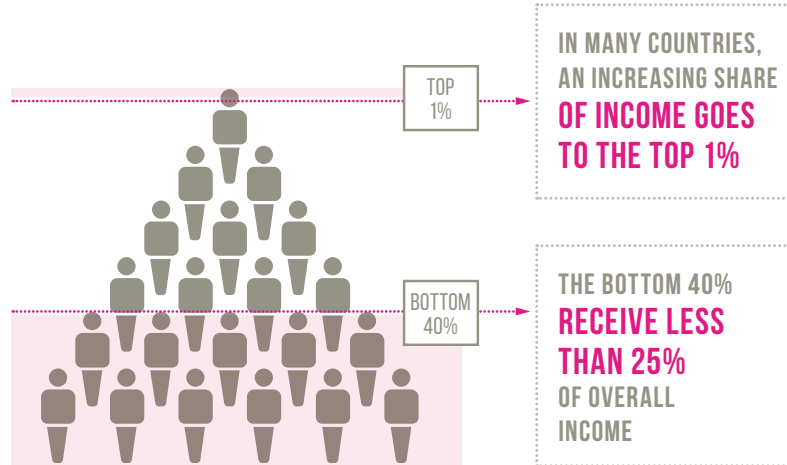


REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

IN MORE THAN HALF
OF THE 92 COUNTRIES WITH DATA,
INCOME OF THE
BOTTOM 40%
OF THE POPULATION

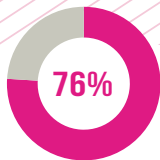


GREW FASTER THAN
THE NATIONAL AVERAGE
(2011–2016)

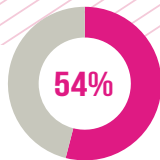


MOST COUNTRIES HAVE POLICIES TO FACILITATE SAFE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION, BUT MORE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE TO PROTECT MIGRANTS' RIGHTS AND SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING

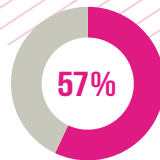
OUT OF 105 COUNTRIES SURVEYED



HAD POLICIES ON **SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**



HAD POLICIES ON **MIGRANTS' RIGHTS**



HAD POLICIES ON **MIGRANTS' SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

LDCs CONTINUE TO **BENEFIT FROM** PREFERENTIAL TRADE STATUS



66% OF PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM LDCs RECEIVE DUTY-FREE TREATMENT (2017), COMPARED TO **51%** FOR DEVELOPING REGIONS



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE



2 BILLION PEOPLE

DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

1 OUT OF 4 URBAN RESIDENTS LIVE IN SLUM-LIKE CONDITIONS (2018)



ONLY HALF (53%) OF URBAN RESIDENTS HAVE CONVENIENT ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT (2018)



150 COUNTRIES HAVE DEVELOPED

NATIONAL URBAN PLANS, WITH ALMOST HALF OF THEM IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

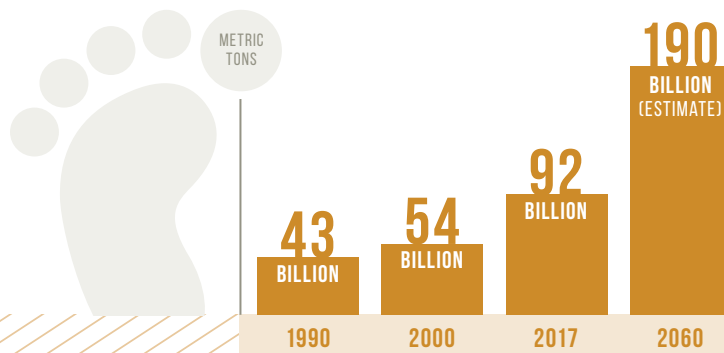
9 OUT OF 10 URBAN RESIDENTS BREATHE POLLUTED AIR





ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

THE GLOBAL MATERIAL FOOTPRINT IS RAPIDLY GROWING, OUTPACING POPULATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

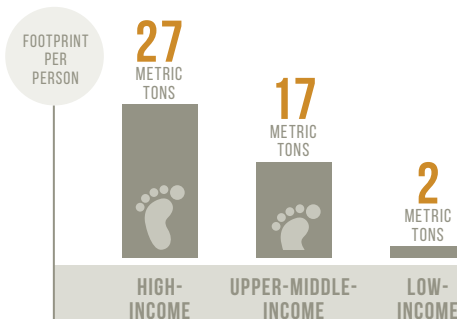


DEVELOPED COUNTRIES USE ONE FIFTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TO PRODUCE THE SAME AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC OUTPUT AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

MATERIAL FOOTPRINT PER CAPITA IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES IS

60% HIGHER THAN IN UPPER-MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES **AND MORE THAN 13 TIMES** THE LEVEL OF LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES



NEARLY 100 COUNTRIES ARE

ACTIVELY ADOPTING POLICIES AND MEASURES

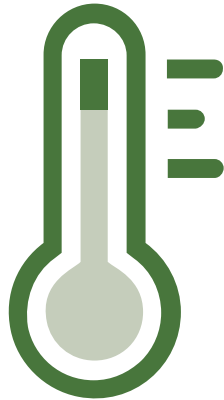
TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

303 POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS ARE IN PLACE GLOBALLY

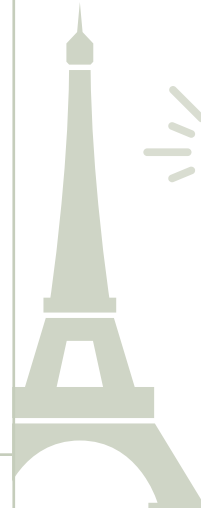




TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS



THE GLOBAL MEAN TEMPERATURE IN 2018 IS APPROXIMATELY **1°C ABOVE** THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL BASELINE



186 PARTIES HAVE RATIFIED THE PARIS AGREEMENT

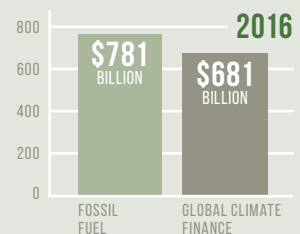
CLIMATE-RELATED AND GEOPHYSICAL DISASTERS CLAIMED AN ESTIMATED 1.3 MILLION LIVES BETWEEN 1998 AND 2017



DESPITE AN INCREASE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE FLOWS OF 17% (2015–2016), COMPARED WITH 2013–2014,

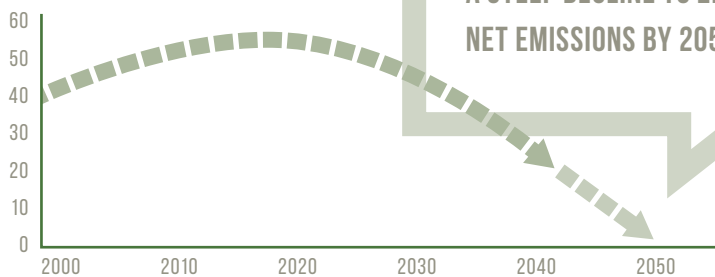


INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS CONTINUES TO BE HIGHER THAN INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE ACTIVITIES



ATMOSPHERIC CO₂ CONCENTRATION IS **146% OF** PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS (2017)

TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5°C, GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS NEED TO FALL TO 55% OF 2010 LEVELS BY 2030 AND CONTINUE A STEEP DECLINE TO ZERO NET EMISSIONS BY 2050





CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CO₂

OCEAN ACIDITY HAS INCREASED BY

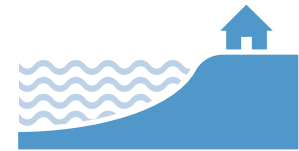
CO₂

26% SINCE PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES

CO₂

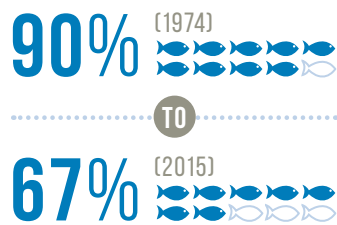
IT IS EXPECTED TO RAPIDLY INCREASE BY 100–150% BY 2100

THE INCREASE IN OCEAN ACIDITY IS A NEGATIVE PHENOMENON. IT IMPACTS THE ABILITY OF THE OCEAN TO ABSORB CO₂ AND ENDANGERS MARINE LIFE.



104 OUT OF **220** COASTAL REGIONS IMPROVED THEIR COASTAL WATER QUALITY (2012–2018)

THE PROPORTION OF FISH STOCKS WITHIN BIOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE LEVELS DECLINED FROM

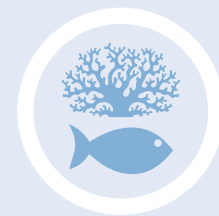


87 COUNTRIES

SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES, THE **FIRST BINDING** INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING



17% OF WATERS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION ARE COVERED BY PROTECTED AREAS



MORE THAN DOUBLE THE 2010 COVERAGE LEVEL





PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

RED LIST INDEX:

BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS HAPPENING

AT AN ACCELERATED RATE

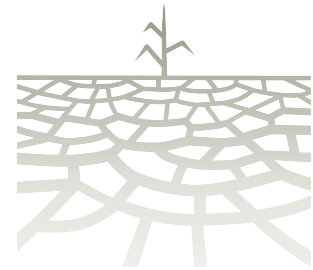


THE RISK OF SPECIES EXTINCTION HAS **WORSENERD BY ALMOST 10%** OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS

RED LIST INDEX TRACKS DATA ON MORE THAN 20,000 SPECIES OF MAMMALS, BIRDS, AMPHIBIANS, CORALS AND CYCADS. THE HIGHER THE VALUE, THE LOWER THE CONCERN



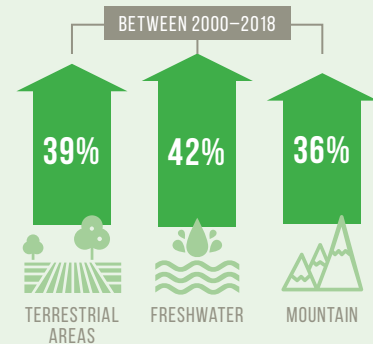
116 PARTIES HAVE RATIFIED **THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL,** WHICH ADDRESSES ACCESS TO **GENETIC RESOURCES** AND THEIR FAIR AND EQUITABLE USE



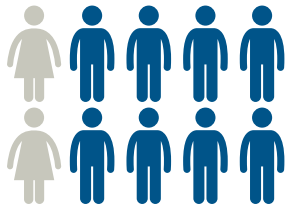
LAND DEGRADATION IS AFFECTING ONE FIFTH OF THE EARTH'S LAND AREA AND THE LIVES OF 1 BILLION PEOPLE

MORE OF EACH KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA IS PROTECTED

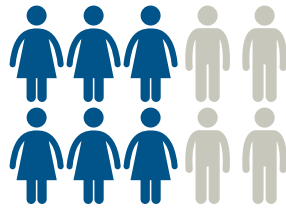
THE GLOBAL MEAN PERCENTAGE OF EACH KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA COVERED BY PROTECTED AREAS INCREASED BY:



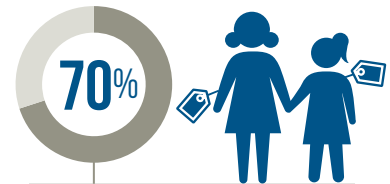
PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS



MEN MAKE UP AROUND 80% OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS OVERALL



BUT WOMEN CONSTITUTE 64% OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY-RELATED HOMICIDE



70% OF DETECTED VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS

MOST OF WHOM ARE TRAFFICKED FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



UN RECORDED AND VERIFIED

397 ADDITIONAL KILLINGS

OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, JOURNALISTS AND TRADE UNIONISTS ACROSS 41 COUNTRIES (JAN.–OCT. 2018)



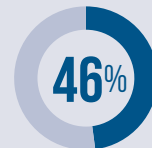
91 JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS WERE AMONG THE VICTIMS



BIRTH REGISTRATION



ONLY THREE QUARTERS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 GLOBALLY



LESS THAN HALF OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



NET ODA
TOTALLED
\$149 BILLION
IN 2018,

DOWN BY

2.7%

FROM 2017

IN 2018,
BILATERAL
ODA
TO THE LDCs

FELL BY

3%

IN REAL TERMS
FROM 2017

AID TO
AFRICA

FELL BY

4%



REMITTANCES

WILL BE THE LARGEST SOURCE OF EXTERNAL FINANCING IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES IN 2019 (PROJECTED TO REACH \$550 BILLION)

CURRENT COMMITMENTS TO STATISTICS—

0.33% OF TOTAL ODA—
MUST BE DOUBLED TO MEET STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING OBJECTIVES BY 2030

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, LESS THAN **ONE QUARTER** OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL PLANS ARE FULLY FUNDED



OVER 80% OF PEOPLE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE ONLINE

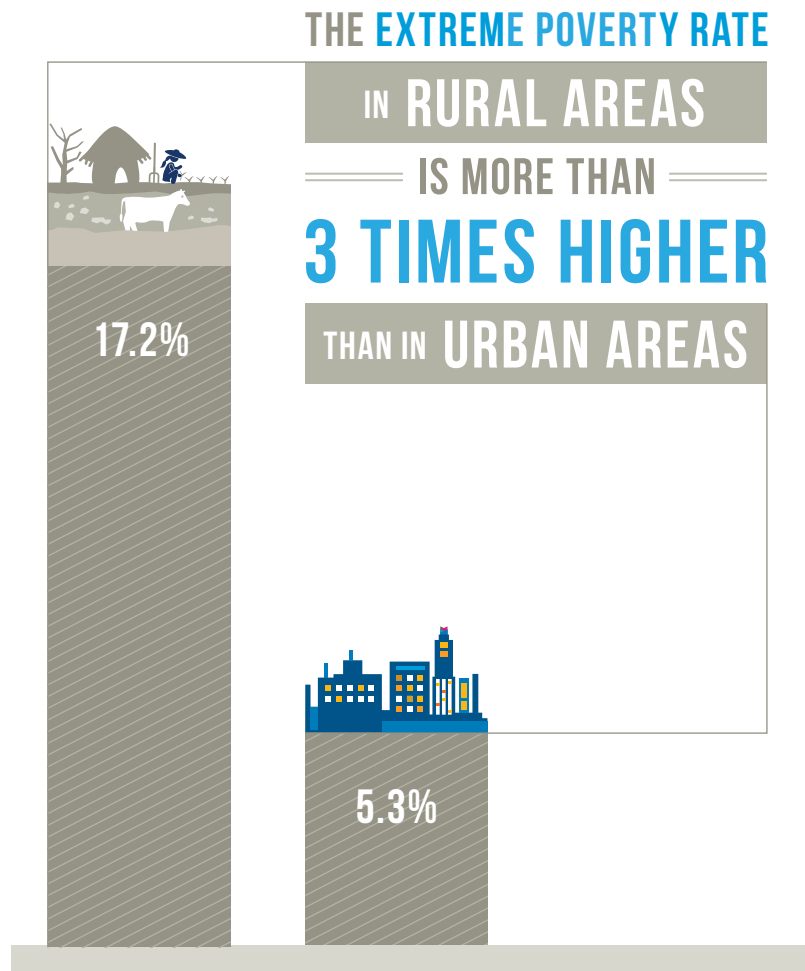


COMPARED TO 45% IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

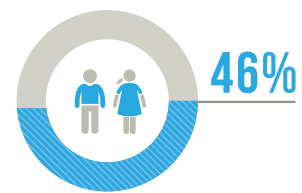


AND ONLY 20% IN LDCs

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

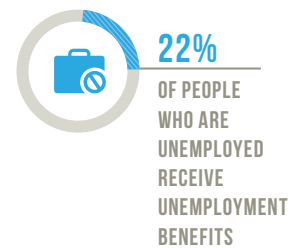
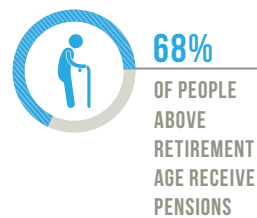
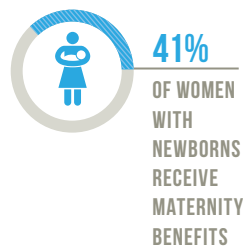
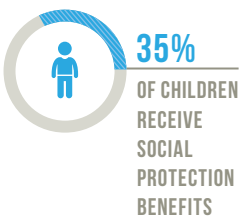


CLOSE TO HALF OF EXTREMELY POOR PEOPLE ARE CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS



YOUTH ARE 3 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED THAN ADULTS

SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE HAS LARGE GAPS





End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The decline of extreme poverty continues, but the pace has slowed, and the world is not on track to achieving the target of ending poverty by 2030. Extreme poverty today is concentrated and overwhelmingly affects rural populations. Increasingly, it is exacerbated by violent conflicts and climate change. Tackling the remaining pockets of extreme poverty will be challenging due to their persistence and complexity—often involving the interplay of social, political and economic factors. Effective social protection schemes and policies,



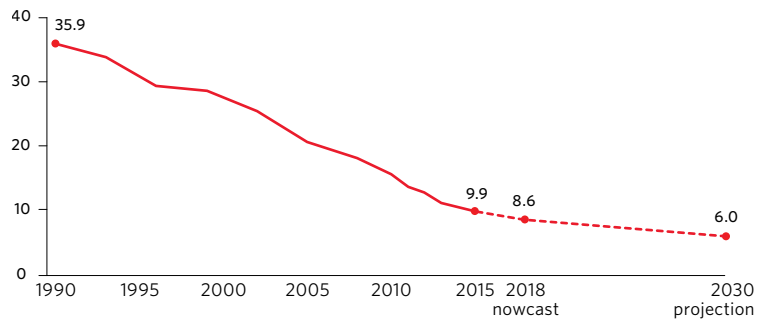
along with government spending on key services, can help those left behind get back on their feet and find a way out of poverty.

Progress against poverty continues but has slowed, jeopardizing achievement of the Goal

The share of the world's population living in extreme poverty decreased to 10 per cent in 2015, from 16 per cent in 2010 and 36 per cent in 1990. More than one billion people have lifted themselves out of poverty over the past 25 years. Much of this progress was in Eastern Asia, where the poverty rate fell from 52 per cent in 1990 to 10 per cent in 2010 to less than 1 per cent in 2015. More recently, Southern Asia has made impressive inroads against extreme poverty, helping to reduce the global rate further. However, the pace of change is decelerating. The nowcast shows the 2018 rate of extreme poverty at 8.6 per cent, and baseline projections suggest that 6 per cent of the world's population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, if current trends continue.

Extreme poverty remains stubbornly high in low-income countries and countries affected by conflict and political upheaval, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Among the 736 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in sub-Saharan Africa. This figure has been climbing in recent years and is higher than the number of poor people in the rest of the world combined.

Proportion of people living below \$1.90 a day, 1990–2015, 2018 nowcast and 2030 projection (percentage)



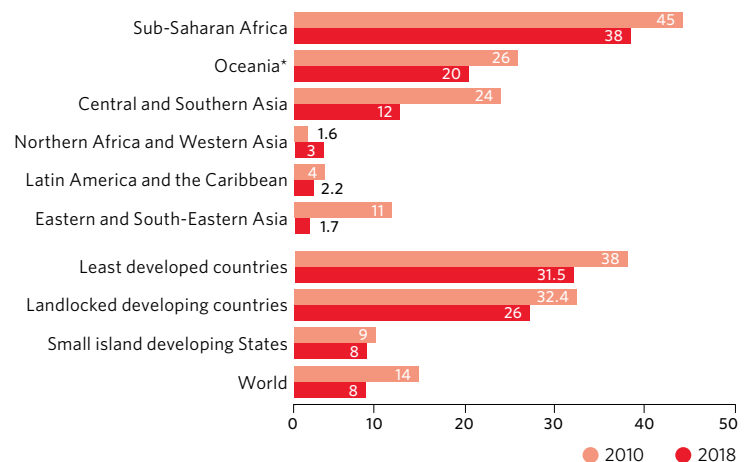
Forecasts suggest that without significant shifts in policy, extreme poverty will still be in the double digits in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. About 79 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas. The poverty rate in rural areas is 17.2 per cent—more than three times higher than in urban areas (5.3 per cent). Close to half (46 per cent) of extremely poor people are children under 14 years of age.

More than one third of employed workers in sub-Saharan Africa still live on less than \$1.90 a day

Having a job does not guarantee a decent living. In fact, 8 per cent of employed workers and their families worldwide lived in extreme poverty in 2018, despite a rapid decline in the working poverty rate over the past 25 years. Substandard working conditions are the main issue, underscoring the central role that decent and productive employment plays in helping people escape poverty.

Progress in reducing working poverty has slowed over the past five years, suggesting that efforts in this area need to be reinvigorated. The situation remains particularly alarming in sub-Saharan Africa, where the share of working poor stood at 38 per cent in 2018. In least developed and landlocked developing countries, at least one quarter of workers live in extreme poverty despite having a job. Employed young people (between 15 and 24 years of age) are more likely to be living in poverty, with a working poverty rate that is double that of adult workers.

Proportion of employed population living below \$1.90 a day, 2010 and 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

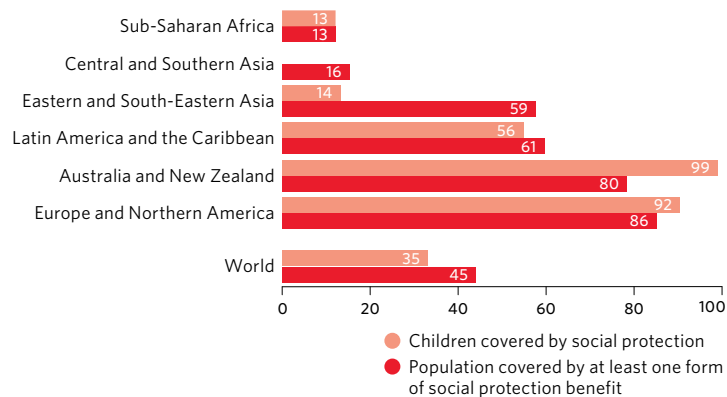
Social protection systems fall short of reaching the world's most vulnerable people, including children

Social protection programmes reduce the brunt of poverty and can also prevent people from falling into poverty in the first place. By helping to prevent and ease poverty and inequality at every stage of people's lives, such programmes make societies more inclusive and stable. However, only 45 per cent of the world's population are effectively covered by at least one social protection cash benefit. The remaining 55 per cent—as many as 4 billion people—have been left behind.

The extent of coverage depends on the type of protection system and the region. Globally, 68 per cent of people above retirement age receive a pension, but the benefits in many countries are often not enough to lift older people out of poverty. Data also show a global deficit of social protection for other groups: only 22 per cent of the unemployed receive unemployment benefit payments, 28 per cent of persons with severe disabilities receive disability cash benefits, one third of children are effectively covered by social protection, and only 41 per cent of women giving birth receive maternity cash benefits. Furthermore, coverage of social assistance cash benefits is as low as 25 per cent for vulnerable groups—children, people of working age and older persons not protected by contributory schemes.

The differences among regions are stark: 92 per cent of children are covered by social protection systems in Europe and Northern America, 56 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, but only 13 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, and 14 per cent in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia.

Proportion of population covered by at least one form of social protection benefit, and children covered by social protection, 2016 (percentage)



Note: Data for Northern Africa and Western Asia, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) are not shown due to low population coverage of available data. Data on children covered by social protection are not shown for Central and Southern Asia due to low population coverage of this data for Southern Asia.

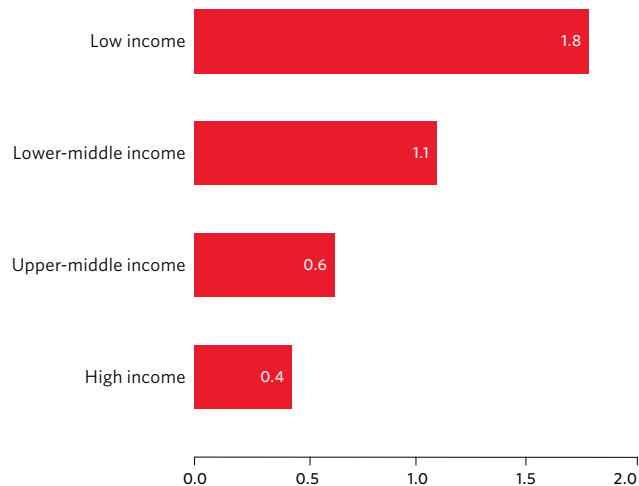
Poverty affects children disproportionately. One out of five children live in extreme poverty, and the negative effects of poverty and deprivation in the early years have ramifications that can last a lifetime. Ensuring social protection for all children and other vulnerable groups is critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in regions with large coverage gaps between children and other segments of the population.

The toll of climate-related disasters is rising, with poorer countries most affected

No matter the measure—whether loss of life or economic loss—disasters cause enormous suffering the world over. From 1998 to 2017, direct economic losses from disasters were estimated at almost \$3 trillion, of which climate-related disasters accounted for 77 per cent of the total (a rise of 151 per cent from 1978 to 1997). Over that period, climate-related and geophysical disasters claimed an estimated 1.3 million lives. More than 90 per cent of all disasters were caused by floods, storms, droughts, heatwaves or other extreme weather events.

Poverty is a major underlying driver of disaster risk, so it comes as no surprise that the poorest countries are experiencing a disproportionate share of damage and loss of life attributed to disasters. More than 90 per cent of internationally reported deaths due to disaster occur in low- and middle-income countries. Disasters kill 130 people for every one million people in low-income countries compared to 18 per one million in high-income countries. Economic losses resulting from disasters are also much higher in poorer countries, when measured as a percentage of their gross domestic product (GDP). Among the 10 worst disasters in terms of economic damage (when expressed relative to GDP), 8 occurred in low- or middle-income countries.

Economic losses (relative to GDP) caused by climate-related disasters, 1998-2017 (percentage)





End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Despite earlier extended progress, the number of people suffering from hunger has been on the rise since 2014. Stunting affects the growth and cognitive development of millions of children, while the prevalence of overweight—the other face of malnutrition—is increasing in all age groups. In the wake of conflicts, climate-induced shocks and economic slowdowns worldwide, intensified efforts are needed to implement and scale up interventions to improve access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all. Specifically, attention needs to be given to increasing the agricultural productivity

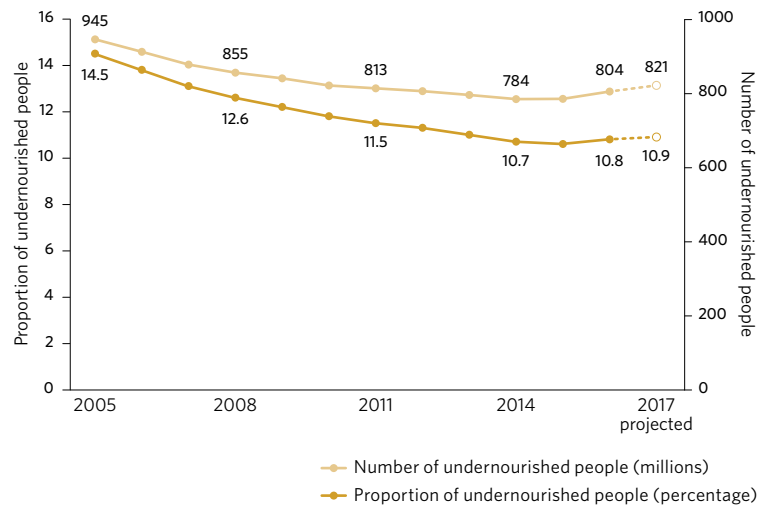
and incomes of small-scale food producers, implementing resilient agricultural practices, and ensuring the proper functioning of markets. Finally, in ensuring that no one is left behind on the road towards zero hunger, the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition must be broken.

After extended progress, the number of people suffering from hunger is on the rise

The number of people going hungry has increased since 2014—a worrisome trend. An estimated 821 million people were undernourished in 2017, the same number as in 2010. The prevalence of undernourishment has remained virtually unchanged in the past three years at a level slightly below 11 per cent. Updated figures on undernourishment, food insecurity and malnutrition will be released in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019* (July 2019).

The situation deteriorated significantly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of undernourished people increased from 195 million in 2014 to 237 million in 2017. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of hunger, with the rate increasing from 20.7 per cent in 2014 to 23.2 per cent in 2017. In South America, the situation also appears to be worsening. This may be the result of an economic slowdown, which reduced fiscal capacity to protect the most vulnerable against rising domestic prices and loss of income. Adverse weather conditions affecting food availability and prices, and prolonged armed conflicts, are among the key drivers of these trends.

Number and proportion of undernourished people in the world, 2005-2017 (millions and percentage)

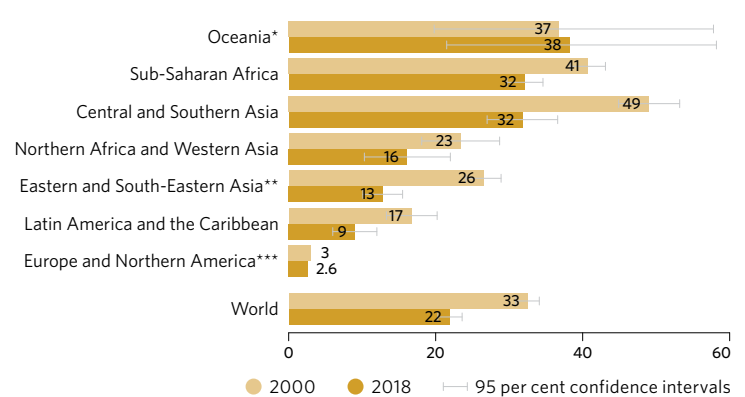


Stunting and wasting in children are declining, but not fast enough to meet SDG targets

Chronic undernutrition or stunting—defined as inadequate height for age—puts children at an increased risk of dying from common infections. Stunting is also associated with poor cognitive development, which can have a negative impact on a country's long-term progress. Since 2000, the proportion of stunted children has been declining; however, 149 million children under 5 years of age—22 per cent of the global under-5 population—were still chronically undernourished in 2018. Three quarters of those children live in Southern Asia (39 per cent) and sub-Saharan Africa (36 per cent). More intensive efforts are needed to meet the target of bringing the number of stunted children down to 100 million by 2025 and 83 million by 2030.

In 2018, 49 million children under 5 years of age—7.3 per cent of the global under-5 population—suffered from acute undernutrition, or wasting (low weight for height), a condition generally caused by limited nutrient intake and infection. Over half of children with wasting live in Southern Asia. The global wasting rate in 2018 remained well above the 5 per cent global target for 2025 and the 3 per cent target for 2030.

Proportion of children under 5 years who are stunted, 2000 and 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

** Excluding Japan.

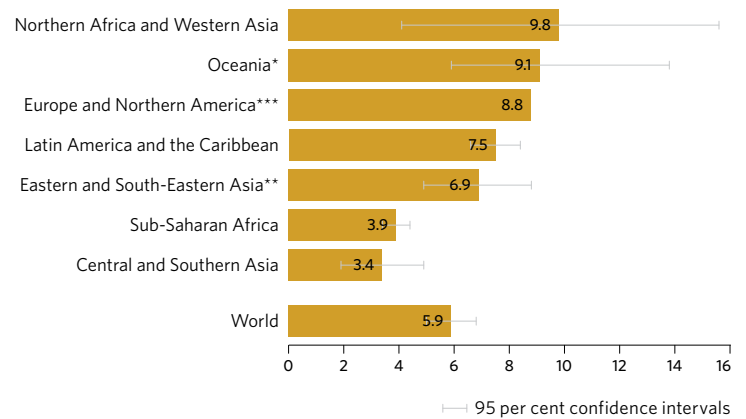
*** Including estimates only for the United States of America. Confidence intervals are not available.

The prevalence of overweight, another form of malnutrition, is increasing in all age groups

Childhood overweight and wasting form the double burden of malnutrition. Children who are overweight or obese are at higher risk of early-onset obesity-related health and psychological complications. They often carry the extra weight into adolescence and adulthood, leading to lifelong health problems. The prevalence of overweight is increasing in all age groups. In 2018, childhood overweight affected 40 million children under 5 years of age—5.9 per cent of the global under-5 population. Prevalence levels were above 9 per cent in Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Central Asia, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and Western Asia.

Globally, in 2016, overweight affected 20.6 per cent of children 5 to 9 years old (131 million), 17.3 per cent of adolescents (207 million) and 38.9 per cent of adults (2 billion). The promotion of healthy diets is central to halting and reversing the obesity epidemic. Governments have a range of policy options to choose from to improve access to healthy and affordable diets, from “hard” policies, such as bans and regulations, to “soft” policies, that entail lower degrees of intervention in people’s lives, such as the provision of information.

Proportion of children under 5 years who are overweight, 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

** Excluding Japan.

*** Including estimates only for the United States of America. Confidence intervals are not available.

Small-scale food producers are a big part of the solution to world hunger

Empowering small-scale food producers to participate fully in development is critical to improving food security and reducing poverty and hunger. Many small-scale and family farmers are poor; have limited capacities and resources; face regular food insecurity; and have limited access to markets and services. Both the income and productivity of small-scale food producers are systematically lower than those of their larger counterparts. The share of small-scale producers among all food producers in countries with data in Africa, Asia and Latin America ranges from 40 per cent to 85 per cent, compared to less than 10 per cent in Europe. To strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale producers, it is important to help them improve their agricultural productivity. Equally important is enabling them to manage their natural resources sustainably; adapt to climate change; and overcome barriers in accessing markets, financial services, information and knowledge.

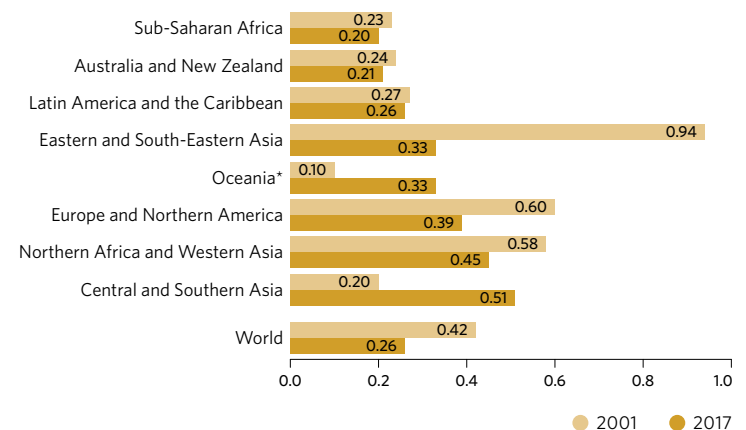
Steeply climbing food prices affect countries across several regions

Weather-induced shocks, civil insecurity and declining food production have all contributed to high food prices in at least two dozen countries worldwide. In 2018 and the first months of 2019, production shortfalls, currency depreciations and insecurity triggered high food prices in several countries in Africa. In Central America, the price of maize climbed steeply in mid-2018, mainly over concerns about the impact of severe dry weather on the main season’s crops. The same occurred in some countries in East and Southern Africa in the first months of 2019. Economic turmoil also drove up food prices in some countries, while low public inventories and increased fuel costs led to record high prices in others.

Support to the agriculture sector from domestic and foreign sources continues its downward trend

Investment in the agriculture sector is critical for reducing hunger and poverty, improving food security, creating employment and building resilience to disasters and shocks. However, government spending on agriculture in relation to its contribution to the economy fell between 2001 and 2017. At the global level, the agriculture orientation index (AOI)—the share of government expenditure to agriculture divided by the share of GDP from agriculture—fell from 0.42 in 2001 to 0.26 in 2017. From 2015 to 2017, the average AOI was highest in Northern Africa and Western Asia (0.42) and lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (0.20). Aid to agriculture is only a fraction of what it was in the 1980s. The share of sector-allocable aid to agriculture from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development fell from nearly 25 per cent in the mid-1980s to only 7 per cent in 2017—a total of \$12.6 billion.

The agriculture orientation index, 2001 and 2017



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Major progress has been made in improving the health of millions of people. Maternal and child mortality rates have been reduced, life expectancy continues to increase globally, and the fight against some infectious diseases has made steady progress. In the case of other diseases, however, progress has slowed or stalled, including global efforts to eradicate malaria and tuberculosis. Far too many deaths occurred because trained health workers or routine interventions, such as immunizations, were not available. In fact, at least half the world's population, many of whom suffer financial hardship, are still without access to essential health services. In rich and poor countries alike, a health emergency can push people into bankruptcy or poverty.



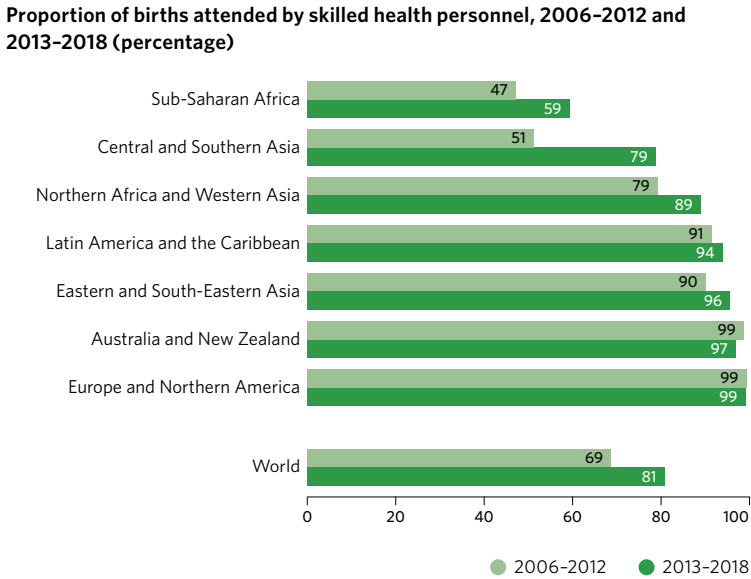
Concerted efforts are required on these and other fronts to achieve universal health coverage and sustainable financing for health; address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, including mental health; and tackle antimicrobial resistance and environmental factors contributing to ill health, such as air pollution and the lack of safely managed water and sanitation.

Sustained investment in maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, is needed to meet the global target

Despite significant progress in maternal health, in 2017, nearly 300,000 women died from complications relating to pregnancy and childbirth. Over 90 per cent of them lived in low- and middle-income countries. For every woman who died, countless others suffered acute and even lifelong consequences of maternal ill health.

The majority of maternal deaths are preventable through appropriate management and care, including antenatal care by trained health providers, assistance during delivery by skilled health personnel, and care and support in the weeks after childbirth. However, progress has slowed in recent years. Continued investment and attention are needed to reach the global target of fewer than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, which could save more than one million lives over the course of a decade.

Ensuring that all births are assisted by skilled health professionals is not only critical to reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, but also to reducing stillbirths, morbidity and death among newborns. Based on the latest data from 2013 to 2018, 81 per cent of all births globally took place in the presence of skilled health personnel, a significant increase from 69 per cent from 2006 to 2012. In sub-Saharan Africa, where two thirds of the world's maternal deaths occur, only 60 per cent of births were assisted by skilled attendants. Projections show that substantially more resources will be required just to maintain current coverage rates in Africa, due to population growth. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among adolescent girls in developing countries. The risk is highest for girls under 15 years of age. Globally, the adolescent fertility rate declined from 56 births per 1,000 adolescent girls in 2000 to 45 in 2015 and 44 in 2018. However, the adolescent fertility rate remained high in sub-Saharan Africa at 101 births per 1,000 adolescent girls in 2018.



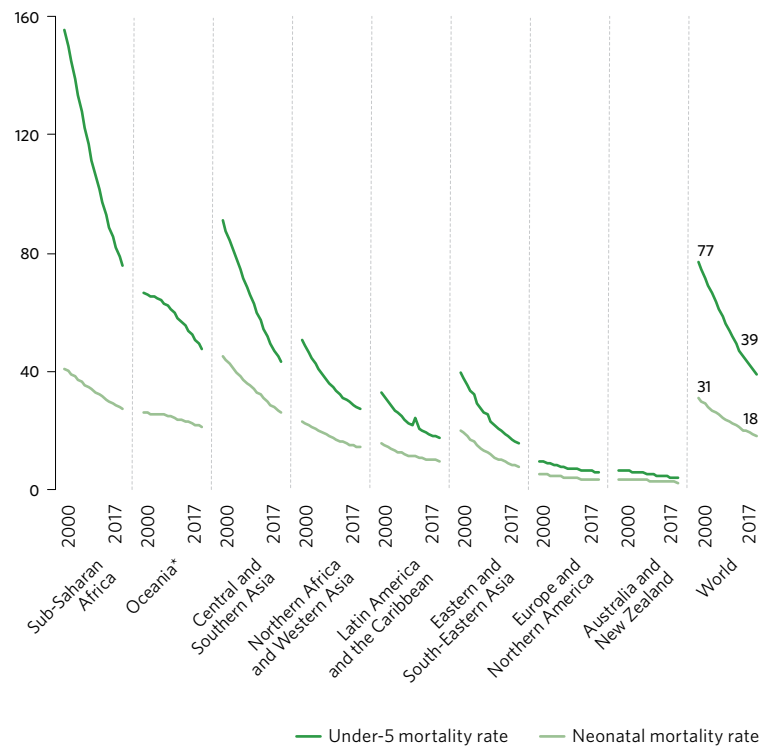
Note: No data available for Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

If the SDG target for under-5 mortality is met, the lives of an additional 10 million children will be saved by 2030

Remarkable progress has been made in child survival worldwide, and millions of children under 5 years of age are more likely to survive today than in 2000. The under-5 mortality rate has fallen by 49 per cent—from 77 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 39 deaths in 2017. The total number of under-5 deaths dropped from 9.8 million in 2000 to 5.4 million in 2017. Half of those deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, and another 30 per cent in Southern Asia. Almost half (2.5 million) of the total number of under-5 deaths took place in the first month of life—the most crucial period for child survival. The global neonatal mortality rate fell from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 18 deaths in 2017—a 41-per cent reduction.

Under-5 and neonatal mortality declined in all regions, with the fastest progress in regions where levels were highest. Yet stark disparities persist across regions and countries. In 2017, 118 countries already had an under-5 mortality rate below the target of 25 deaths per 1,000 live births. However, progress will need to accelerate in about 50 countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, to meet the target by 2030. If this is achieved, the lives of an additional 10 million children under 5 years of age will be saved. Many of these deaths could be prevented through interventions such as vaccinations, exclusive breastfeeding, proper nutrition, appropriate treatment of common childhood infections, as well as reductions in air pollution and access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation.

Under-5 and neonatal mortality rate, 2000–2017 (deaths per 1,000 live births)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Despite broad immunization coverage, outbreaks of measles and diphtheria have resulted in many unnecessary deaths

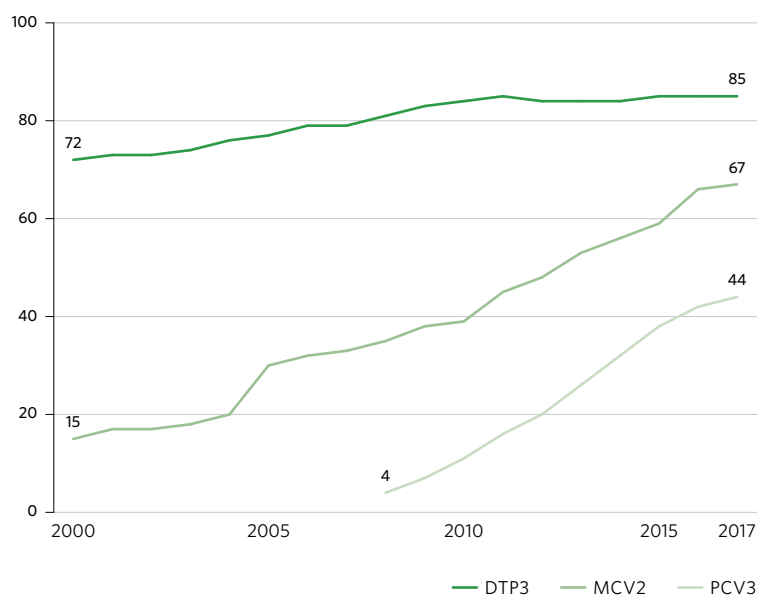
Immunization is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions, saving millions of lives. In 2017, 116.2 million children were immunized, the highest number ever reported. At the same time, pockets of low coverage have led to outbreaks of measles and diphtheria, resulting in many deaths—a clear demonstration of the importance of reaching full coverage.

The proportion of children who have received the required three doses of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3)-containing vaccine increased from 72 per cent in 2000 to 85 per cent in 2015, but remained unchanged between 2015 and 2017. An estimated 19.9 million children did not receive the vaccine during the first year of life, putting them at serious risk of potentially fatal diseases.

Two doses of the measles-containing vaccine are required to prevent the disease and the illness, disability and death caused by associated complications. Coverage by the second dose (MCV2), given during the second year of a child's life or upon school-entry age, increased from 15 per cent in 2000 to 59 per cent in 2015 and 67 per cent in 2017. This progress, while dramatic, is still insufficient to prevent measles outbreaks.

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) has the potential to significantly reduce deaths in children under 5 years of age. Globally, coverage by PCV has made steady advances since it was introduced, but has yet to reach 50 per cent. Many countries, including middle-income countries that have limited access to international financial support, are lagging behind because their current health budgets may not be sufficient to cover the costs without external support.

Immunization coverage worldwide, by type of vaccine, 2000–2017 (percentage)

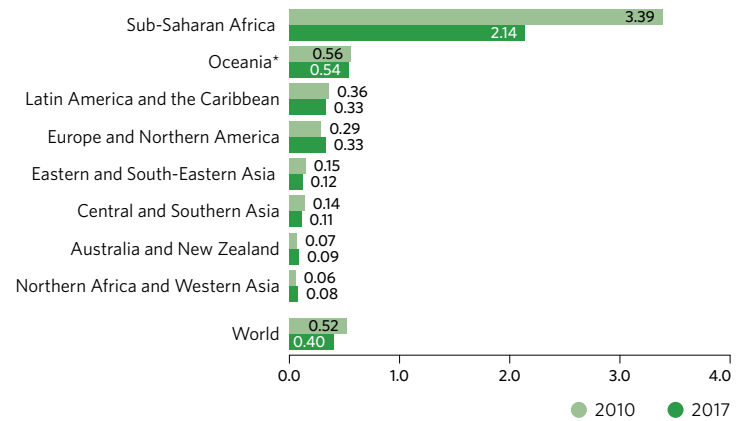


The decrease in HIV incidence is falling short of the target, despite steady progress in sub-Saharan Africa

Strong domestic and international commitment and funding for the AIDS response has fuelled an acceleration of evidenced-based programmes for prevention, testing and treatment. As a result, the incidence of HIV among adults (15 to 49 years of age) in sub-Saharan Africa declined by around 37 per cent from 2010 to 2017. This represents a drop from 3.39 infections per 1,000 uninfected people in 2010 to 2.14 in 2017. Progress has been slower elsewhere, and some subregions have even seen an increase in HIV incidence, including Western Asia (53 per cent), Central Asia (51 per cent) and Europe (22 per cent).

Global HIV incidence among adults declined by 22 per cent between 2010 and 2017, well short of the progress required to meet the 2020 and 2030 targets. The largest decline in incidence by age group was among children 0 to 14 years old (37 per cent from 2010 to 2017), reflecting increased provision of antiretroviral medications to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.

HIV incidence rates, 2010 and 2017 (new cases per 1,000 uninfected adults aged 15 to 49 years)



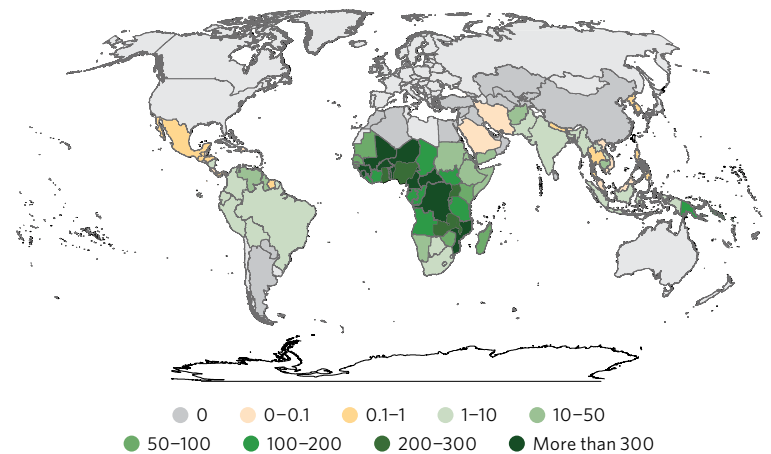
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

With progress against malaria at a standstill, increased efforts are urgently needed in the most affected countries

After more than a decade of steady gains against malaria, progress has stalled. No significant advances were made in reducing the number of malaria cases worldwide from 2015 to 2017. The incidence rate of malaria declined by 18 per cent between 2010 and 2015— from 72 cases per 1,000 people at risk to 59—and then remained unchanged from 2015 to 2017.

In 2017, an estimated 219 million cases of malaria and 435,000 deaths from the disease were reported. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to carry the heaviest burden, accounting for more than 90 per cent of global malaria cases, and the toll is rising. From 2016 to 2017, approximately 3.5 million more malaria cases were reported in the 10 most affected African countries. Children under 5 years of age are the most vulnerable to the disease, and account for 61 per cent (266,000) of malaria deaths worldwide. Funding for malaria had been increasing since 2000, but recently stalled. Increased support directed to the most affected countries is urgently needed.

Malaria incidence rate, 2017 (new cases per 1,000 people at risk)



Gaps in detection and treatment of tuberculosis, along with drug-resistant strains, are pushing progress against the disease off course

Tuberculosis remains a leading cause of poor health and death worldwide. An estimated 10 million people fell ill with the disease in 2017. It was the top killer from a single infectious agent that year (above HIV) and the tenth leading cause of death overall. Nevertheless, significant progress has been made. The incidence of tuberculosis declined by 21 per cent since 2000—from 170 new and relapsed cases per 100,000 people that year to 140 in 2015 and 134 in 2017. The tuberculosis mortality rate among HIV-negative people fell by 42 per cent over the same period. However, large gaps in detection and treatment persist, and the current pace of progress is not fast enough to meet the target of ending the epidemic by 2030. Moreover, drug-resistant tuberculosis is a continuing threat. In 2017, there were 558,000 new cases with resistance to rifampicin, the most effective first-line drug, of which 460,000 had multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Neglected tropical diseases are slowly being vanquished, but remain a scourge in poorer countries

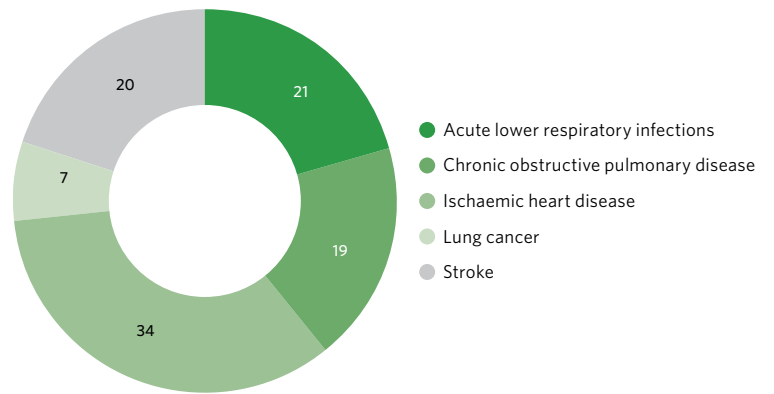
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of communicable diseases found in 149 tropical and subtropical countries. They affect billions of people—particularly those who live in poverty, lack adequate sanitation, and are in close contact with infectious vectors and domestic animals—costing developing economies billions of dollars each year. In 2017, 1.58 billion people required mass or individual treatment and care for NTDs, down from 1.63 billion in 2015 and 2.03 billion in 2010. At least one NTD was eliminated in 34 countries in 2017. However, actual progress is likely even stronger, since improved surveillance is identifying more people requiring interventions against NTDs than in the past. In least developed countries, 52 per cent of the population (522 million) required treatment and care for NTDs in 2017, down from 78 per cent in 2010. To effectively control and eliminate NTDs, current measures must be intensified and expanded.

Lapses in environmental health are increasingly recognized as major contributors to illness and death

Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene is linked to 60 per cent of the disease burden from diarrhoea, 100 per cent of the burden from infection through soil-transmitted helminths (parasitic worms), and 16 per cent of the burden owing to malnutrition (“burden” is understood as being the impact of a health problem as measured by financial cost, mortality, morbidity or other indicators). These three conditions led to a total of 870,000 deaths in 2016. This large disease burden could be significantly reduced if safely managed drinking water and sanitation services were universally available, and good hygiene practices were followed.

Both household and ambient air pollution increase the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and are major risk factors for non-communicable diseases. Exposure to household air pollution, mainly due to polluting fuels and technologies for cooking, led to around 4 million deaths in 2016. Health risks from this type of pollution are particularly high among women and children, who

Share of cause-specific diseases attributable to air pollution, 2016 (percentage)



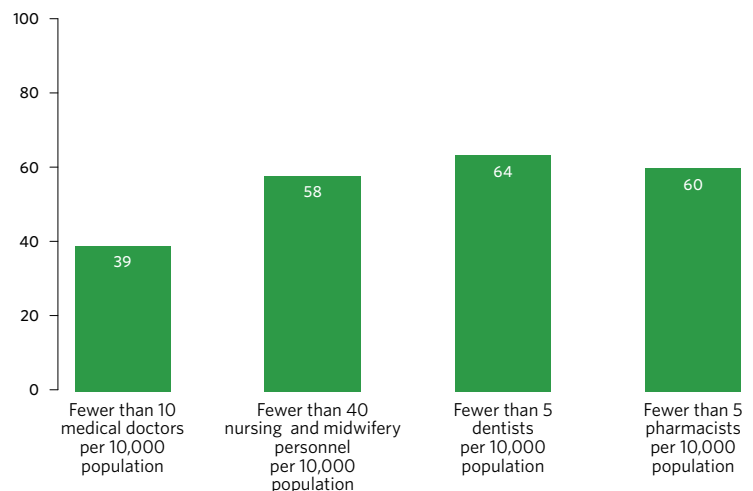
typically spend the most time around the stove. Ambient air pollution from traffic, industry, power-generation, waste-burning and residential fuel combustion resulted in around 4.2 million deaths in 2016.

Health personnel are stretched beyond their limit in countries where they are needed most

Strengthening primary health care and achieving health for all requires an adequate workforce that is motivated, supported and available where needed. Sadly, this is far from the reality. Available data from 2013 to 2018 indicate that close to 40 per cent of all countries have fewer than 10 medical doctors per 10,000 people, and around 58 per cent of countries have fewer than 40 nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 people. This is only a slight improvement from 2010 to 2015.

Evidence shows that health workers are unevenly distributed across the globe and even within countries. Not surprisingly, regions with the highest burden of disease have the lowest proportion of health workers to deliver services. All of the least developed countries have fewer than 10 medical doctors per 10,000 people, and 98 per cent have fewer than 40 nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 people. It is estimated that around 18 million additional health workers will be needed globally by 2030 to ensure healthy lives for all.

The proportion of countries with an insufficient number of health-care professionals, latest available data from 2013–2018 (percentage)

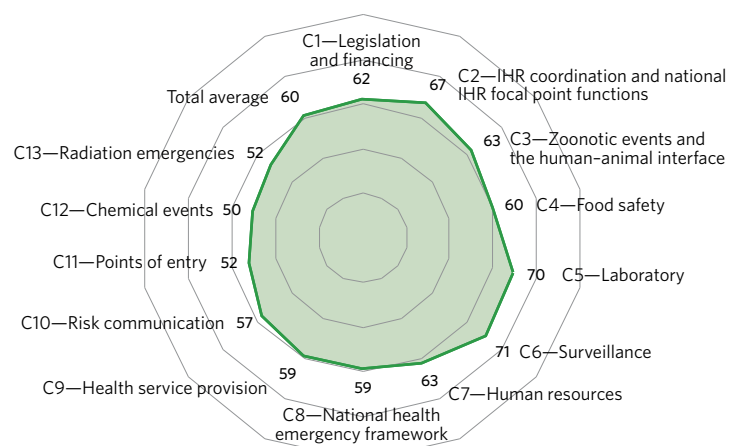


Countries have greater capacity to detect than to respond to public health emergencies

The International Health Regulations is a legally binding agreement that requires countries to report certain disease outbreaks and public health events to the World Health Organization (WHO). Since 2010, all 196 States Parties have sent reports to WHO on their capacity to implement the Regulations, and on their preparedness to deal with health emergencies more generally. In 2018, 190 States Parties submitted reports, compared to 167 in 2017.

An analysis of 182 reports shows that, globally, progress has been made in all 13 of the Regulations’ core capacities. Almost all States Parties are performing better in detection (e.g., surveillance and laboratory detection) than in emergency preparedness and response. Bigger gaps have been observed in capacity at points of entry (e.g., ports, airports and ground crossings) and in chemical safety and radiation emergencies. Although more work remains, these reports are clear evidence of international commitment and effort to improve early warning systems, and reduce and manage public health risks.

Score by capacities according to International Health Regulations reports, 2018



Note: Overview based on reports received (182 out of a total of 190) in 2018.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Education enables upward socioeconomic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty. Nevertheless, millions of children are still out of school, and not all who do attend are learning. More than half of all children and adolescents worldwide are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. Disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes are found across regions, and sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Central and Southern Asia lag behind. As a result, many students are not fully prepared to participate in a



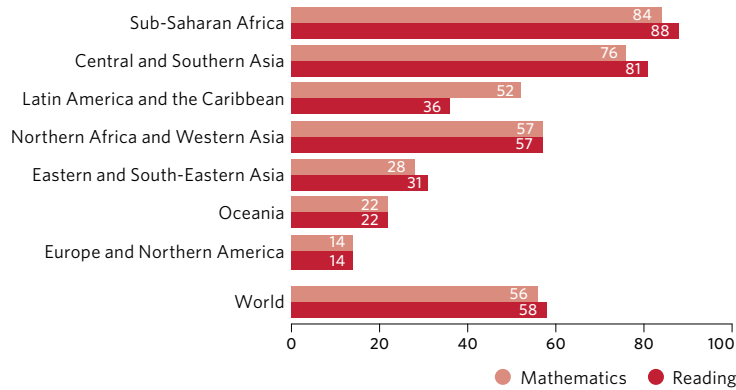
highly complex global economy. That gap should provide the incentive for policymakers to refocus their efforts to ensure that the quality of education is improved, and that more people of all ages can access it.

Shockingly low proficiency rates in reading and mathematics signal a global learning crisis

Globally, an estimated 617 million children and adolescents of primary and lower secondary school age—more than 55 per cent of the global total—lacked minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics in 2015. One third of those children and adolescents were out of school and urgently needed access to education. About two thirds of them attended school but did not become proficient, either because they dropped out or because they did not learn basic skills. Despite years of steady growth in enrolment rates, non-proficiency rates remain disturbingly high. They are highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where 88 per cent of children (202 million) of primary and lower secondary school age were not proficient in reading, and 84 per cent (193 million) were not proficient in mathematics in 2015. Central and Southern Asia was not faring significantly better. There, 81 per cent of children (241 million) were not proficient in reading, and 76 per cent (228 million) lacked basic mathematical skills.

Girls are more likely than boys to learn how to read. Globally, for every 100 boys who achieved minimum proficiency in reading in 2015, 105 girls of primary school age and 109 adolescent women of lower secondary school age met at least the minimum standard.

Percentage of children and adolescents not achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics, 2015 (percentage)

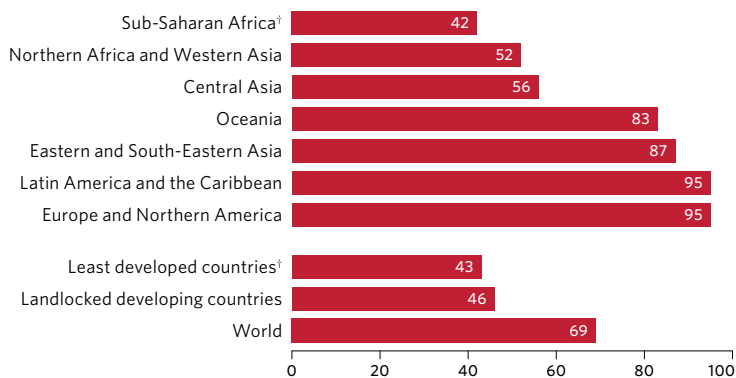


The learning crisis not only threatens an individual's ability to climb out of poverty, it also jeopardizes the economic future of entire nations as they struggle to compete in a global marketplace with less-than-skilled human resources. The next decade provides an important window of opportunity for policymakers to ensure that all children are proficient in basic literacy and numeracy.

Early childhood education offers a head start in school, but one third of the world's children are being left behind

Evidence shows that good quality early childhood education is one of the best investments a society can make in its children—one that builds a strong foundation for learning in later years. In fact, early childhood education has been found to be one of the strongest determinants of a child's readiness for school, in both high-income and low-income countries. Participation in organized learning one year before the official entry age for primary school has risen steadily over the past years. At the global level, the participation rate in early childhood education was 69 per cent in 2017, up from 63 per cent in 2010. However, considerable disparities were found among countries, with rates ranging from 7 per cent to nearly 100 per cent. The early childhood education participation rate was only 43 per cent in least developed countries.

Participation rate in organized learning one year before the official entry age for primary school, 2017 (percentage)



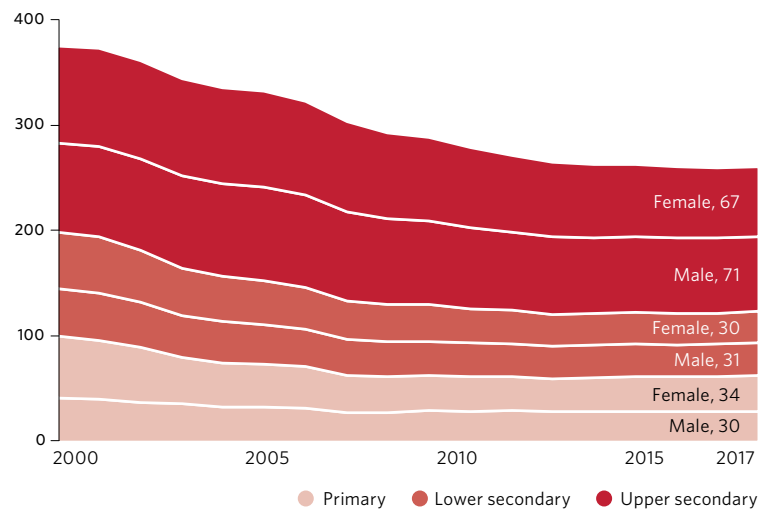
† Based on 2016 data.

Progress has stalled in reaching out-of-school children

Despite considerable progress in educational access and participation, 262 million children and adolescents (6 to 17 years old) were still out of school in 2017. That represented nearly one fifth of the global population in that age group. Of that number, 64 million were children of primary school age (about 6 to 11 years old), 61 million were adolescents of lower secondary school age (12 to 14 years old), and 138 million were youth of upper secondary school age (15 to 17 years old).

Girls still face barriers to education in most regions, particularly in Central Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. In those regions, girls of every age are more likely to be excluded from education than boys. For every 100 boys of primary-school age out of school in 2017, 127 girls were denied the right to education in Central Asia, 121 in sub-Saharan Africa, and 112 in Northern Africa and Western Asia. At the global level, 118 girls were out of school for every 100 boys. Recent successes in reducing the number of children out of school and reducing the gender gap in the out-of-school rate need to be replicated worldwide to ensure all children, everywhere, are attending school.

Number of school-age children out of school worldwide, by level of education and sex, 2000-2017 (million)



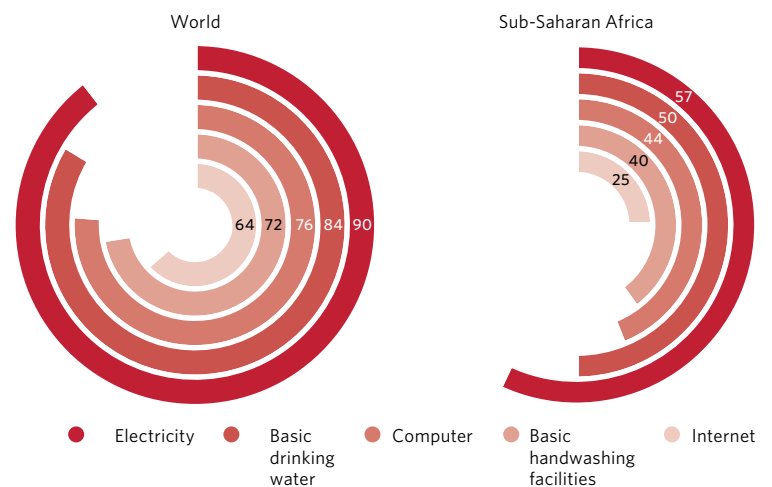
Note: The numbers next to the sex represent 2017 data.

Too many schools in sub-Saharan Africa lack the basic elements of a good quality education: trained teachers and adequate facilities

Adequate infrastructure and teacher training play a critical role in the quality of education. Of all regions, sub-Saharan Africa faces the biggest challenges in providing schools with basic resources. The situation is extreme at the primary and lower secondary levels, where less than one half of schools in sub-Saharan Africa have access to drinking water, electricity, computers and the Internet. At the upper secondary level, 57 per cent of schools have electricity, but only 25 to 50 per cent have access to drinking water, handwashing facilities, computers and the Internet.

Another important step towards the goal of good quality education for all is getting enough trained teachers into classrooms. Here again, sub-Saharan Africa lags behind. In 2017, that region had the lowest percentages of trained teachers in pre-primary (48 per cent), primary (64 per cent) and secondary (50 per cent) education.

Proportion of schools with access to basic school resources globally and in sub-Saharan Africa, upper secondary, 2017 (percentage)

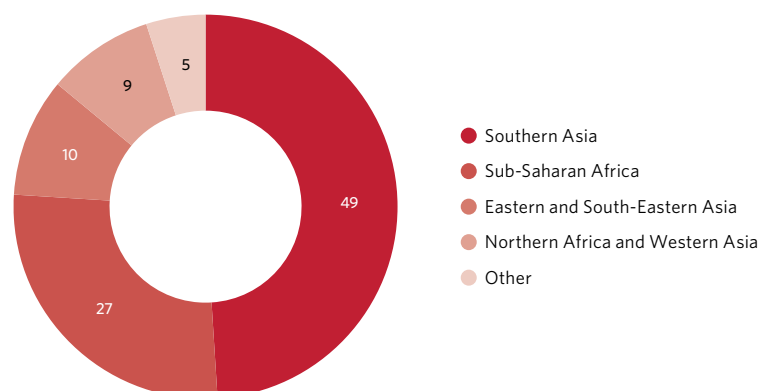


Despite progress, 750 million adults still cannot read and write a simple statement; two thirds of those adults are women

Recent decades have seen improvements in basic reading and writing skills and a steady reduction in gender gaps, with women's literacy rates growing faster than men's literacy rates in all regions over the past 25 years. However, 750 million adults—two thirds of whom are women—remained illiterate in 2016. Adult literacy rates are lowest in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Southern Asia alone is home to nearly half (49 per cent) of the global population who are illiterate.

On a more positive note, youth literacy rates are generally higher than those of adults. This reflects increased access to schooling among younger generations, although many students with basic reading and writing skills still struggle to meet the higher standard of minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics. The global literacy rate for adults (15 years of age and older) was 86 per cent in 2016, compared to 91 per cent for youth (15 to 24 years old). However, youth literacy remains low in several countries, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Proportion of global population who are illiterate, 15 years and older, 2016 (percentage)





Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The world is a better place for women today than it was in the past. Fewer girls are forced into early marriage; more women are serving in parliament and positions of leadership; and laws are being reformed to advance gender equality. Despite these gains, discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive, along with harmful practices and other forms of violence against women and girls. Women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership. Across the globe, women and girls perform a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work. Moreover, they continue to face barriers with respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights, including legal restrictions and lack of autonomy in decision-making. Among the most disadvantaged are women and girls who face the compounded



effects of gender and other forms of discrimination. Achieving gender equality will require bold and sustainable actions that address the structural impediments and root causes of discrimination against women. Equally important, it will require laws and policies that advance gender equality, backed by adequate resources, as well as stronger accountability for commitments made to women's rights.

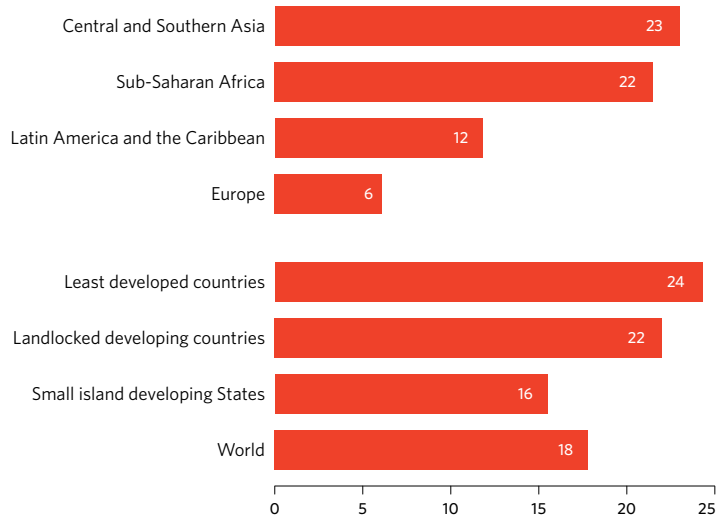
Women and girls continue to be subjected to harmful practices that profoundly affect their lives

Women and girls around the world continue to experience violence and cruel practices that strip them of their dignity and erode their well-being. Intimate partner violence affects women of all ages and ethnicities, regardless of their socioeconomic status and educational level, in all countries. According to the latest available data from 106 countries, 18 per cent of ever-partnered women and girls 15 to 49 years old experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a deeply troubling human-rights violation that affects at least 200 million women in the 30 countries where the practice is concentrated (half of them in West Africa). On average, the prevalence of FGM has declined by one quarter since around 2000. Still, on average, about one in three girls 15 to 19 years old in those countries have been subjected to FGM, compared to nearly one in two in 2000.

Child marriage—another harmful practice—has continued to decline around the world, largely driven by progress in Southern Asia. There, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has decreased by over 40 per cent since 2000. Increasingly, the global burden of child marriage is shifting from Southern Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, where levels of child marriage have declined at a more modest rate.

Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 to 49 years subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, latest available data, 2005-2017 (percentage)



Note: Only regions where available data cover at least 50 per cent of the population are displayed in this figure.

Women and girls perform a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work

On average, women spend roughly triple the amount of time that men do each day in unpaid care and domestic work, according to the latest available data from around 90 countries. That work includes a variety of unpaid activities, such as taking care of children and the elderly, and domestic chores. Data also suggest that the gender gap widens when women are most likely to have young children at home.

Inadequate cookstoves, water, sanitation and transportation increase women's burdens, as do the lack of early childhood education and care, long-term care and access to social protection and services. That burden is compounded by traditional notions of women's roles in society. When women are engaged in caregiving and domestic chores, they have less time for paid work, education and leisure, further reinforcing their socioeconomic disadvantage.

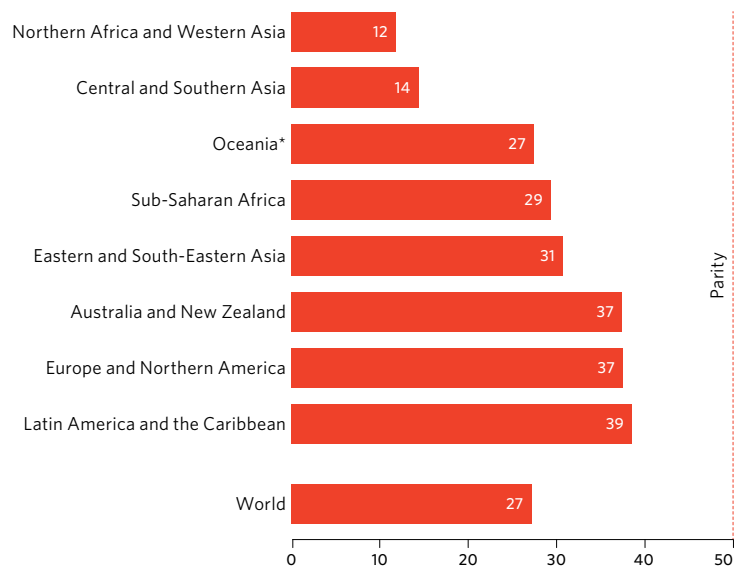
At home, at work and in political life, women are too often denied decision-making power

As of 1 January 2019, women's representation in national parliaments ranged from 0 to 61.3 per cent, averaging 24.3 per cent. This is an increase of 5 percentage points since 2010. In 103 countries and areas with relevant data, women's representation in elected local deliberative bodies varied from less than 1 per cent to close to parity, at 50 per cent, with a median of 26 per cent. Women's representation in local government is 40 per cent or higher in only 15 countries and areas. When legislated gender quotas are adopted, significantly higher proportions of women are elected at both national and local levels. Countries with higher representation of women in local government tend to have higher representation in parliament.

In the economic sphere, the world has seen an upward trend in the proportion of women in managerial positions. Since 2000, that share has increased in all regions and country groupings, except in least developed countries. However, it remains disproportionately low. Women comprised 39 per cent of the workforce in 2018, but held only 27 per cent of managerial positions.

That lack of decision-making power is reflected in the home as well. According to data from 51 countries, only 57 per cent of women 15 to 49 years old who are married or in a union make their own decisions about sexual relations and the use of contraceptives and reproductive health services. Women's and girls' capacity to make those crucial decisions for themselves—and to be able to act on them—is essential to their empowerment and the full exercise of their reproductive rights.

Proportion of women in managerial positions, 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

In too many countries, gaps in legal frameworks are failing to protect women's rights

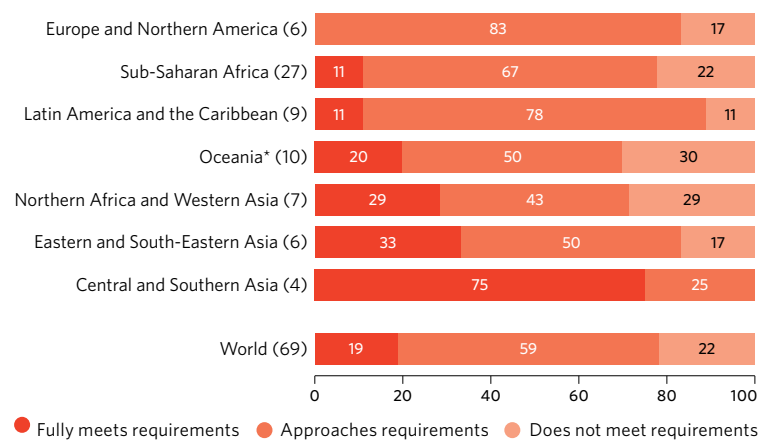
Over the past 25 years, progress has been made in gender equality through the creation of new legislation and the reform of existing laws. Still, troublesome gaps remain. This was the conclusion of a study of data collected in 2018 and covering four areas of law in 53 countries. In almost one third of the countries studied, gaps were found in overarching legal frameworks and areas of public life. For example, nearly two thirds of those countries lacked laws that covered both direct and indirect discrimination against women. In the area of violence against women, legal gaps were found in over one quarter

of the countries studied. Of those countries, 68 per cent lacked rape laws based on the principle of consent. In the areas of employment and economic benefits, and of marriage and family, 29 per cent and 24 per cent of countries, respectively, had legal gaps. For example, in more than half of the countries, no laws were in place to mandate equal pay for work of equal value. Less than one third of the countries had laws stipulating 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for women and men, with no exceptions.

Financing gaps limit implementation of laws and policies on gender equality

Gender budgeting aims to link policy and legal requirements for gender equality with resource allocation. Although progress has been made in implementing gender budgeting globally, significant gaps remain. For example, many countries have yet to establish a comprehensive system to track allocations for gender equality and to make data publicly available. An analysis of 2018 data from 69 countries and areas found that 13 countries (19 per cent) fully met those criteria, and 41 countries (59 per cent) approached the requirements. More often, countries issue directives on gender budgeting, use sex-disaggregated data to inform budget decisions, and conduct ex-post-impact assessments. The data also revealed a gap in policy implementation. Among the same set of countries, 90 per cent had policies and programmes in place to address gender gaps, but only 43 per cent reported adequate resource allocations to implement them.

Proportion of countries with systems to track gender equality budgeting allocations, by level of compliance, 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Note: Numbers in parentheses reflect the number of countries for which data are available.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Fresh water is a precious resource that is essential to human health, food and energy security, poverty eradication and many other aspects of sustainable development. Water-related ecosystems have always provided natural sites for human settlements, along with a wealth of ecosystem services. Yet, like other natural resources, water is under threat. The demand for water has outpaced population growth, and half the world's population is already experiencing severe water scarcity at least one month a year. Most rivers in Africa, Asia and Latin America are more polluted now than they were in the 1990s. An estimated 50 to 70 per cent of the world's natural wetland area has been lost over the last 100 years. While substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, billions of people—mostly in rural areas—still lack these basic services. In response, donors increased their aid commitments



to the water sector by 37 per cent between 2016 and 2017. Most countries have recognized the importance of better coordinating the use of water resources, and have put in place integrated plans for their management. However, much more effort is needed to improve access to water and sanitation services, increase wastewater treatment, enhance water use efficiency, expand operational cooperation across transboundary water basins, and protect and restore freshwater ecosystems.

Despite progress, accelerated action is needed to provide billions of people with safely managed drinking water and sanitation

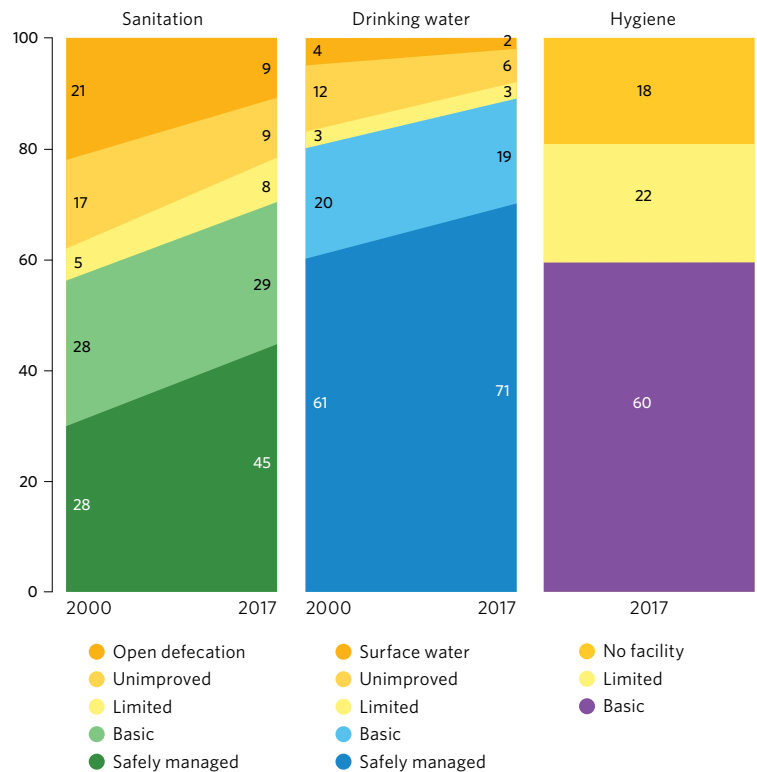
Between 2000 and 2017, the proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water—the highest level of service—increased from 61 per cent to 71 per cent. The fastest progress was seen in Central and Southern Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, 90 per cent of the world's population had at least basic drinking water services. Despite those gains, 785 million people still lacked even basic drinking water services in 2017.

The proportion of the global population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 28 per cent in 2000 to 45 per cent in 2017, with Eastern and South-Eastern Asia making the fastest progress. An additional 30 per cent of the global population used basic sanitation services. Despite that progress, an estimated 673 million people (9 per cent of the global population) still practised open defecation in 2017, the majority of them in Southern Asia. Achieving universal access to even basic sanitation services by 2030 will require a doubling of the current annual rate of progress.

In 2017, three out of five people worldwide had a basic handwashing facility with soap and water on the premises, compared with less than one out of three (28 per cent) in least developed countries. That means that, globally, an estimated 3 billion people are still unable to properly wash their hands at home.

Basic water, sanitation and hygiene services are important not only in homes, but also in public areas where people congregate. In 2016, one third of all primary schools lacked basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. That adversely affected the education and health of millions of schoolchildren, particularly girls coping with menstruation. One out of four health-care facilities worldwide also lacked basic drinking water services, affecting over 2 billion people and increasing the infection risk of people seeking medical care.

Global coverage of sanitation, drinking water and hygiene services, 2000 and 2017 (percentage)

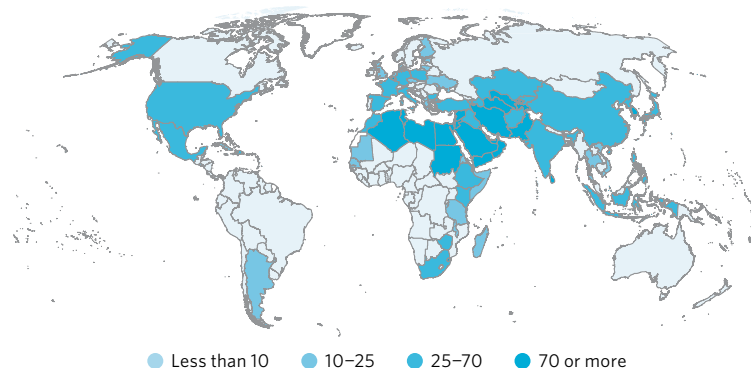


Water stress affects people on every continent, requiring immediate and collective action

Two billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress, and about 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity at least one month a year. Over the last century, global water use has increased at more than twice the rate of population growth. That growth, along with rapid urbanization, socioeconomic development and changing consumption patterns, continues to drive water demand, which is heightened by climate change. By 2030, an estimated 700 million people could be displaced by intense water scarcity.

Currently, one third of countries have medium to high levels of water stress. Countries with high levels of water stress are all located in Northern Africa and Western Asia and in Central and Southern Asia. To reduce pressure on freshwater resources, every country and region needs to increase the use of non-conventional water resources, such as the reuse of wastewater, desalinated water, and direct use of agricultural drainage water.

Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of total renewable freshwater resources, latest available year, 2000–2015 (percentage)

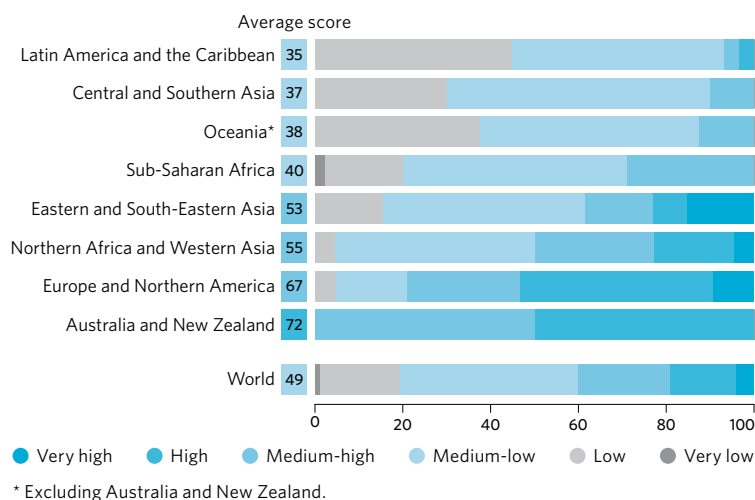


Countries are advancing the integrated management of their water resources, but more rapid progress is needed

Water resources must be carefully managed to ensure sustainability and equitable sharing among users. A global framework for such an approach is known as integrated water resources management (IWRM), and it covers policies, institutions, management instruments and financing. Of the 172 countries that reported on their implementation of IWRM in 2018, 80 per cent had medium-low levels of implementation or higher. That means that they have laid a solid foundation for implementing the many elements of the approach. However, 60 per cent of countries were not on track to reach the 2030 target of full implementation. An acceleration of progress is needed, particularly in the area of sustainable financing. In 2018, the average global score for IWRM implementation was 49 out of 100.

Community participation is key to ensuring that IWRM is adapted to local contexts. Seventy per cent of countries reported that they had procedures in place (defined in either policy or law) for community participation in the areas of rural drinking water supply and water resources management. However, implementation of those procedures is constrained due to the lack of human and financial resources.

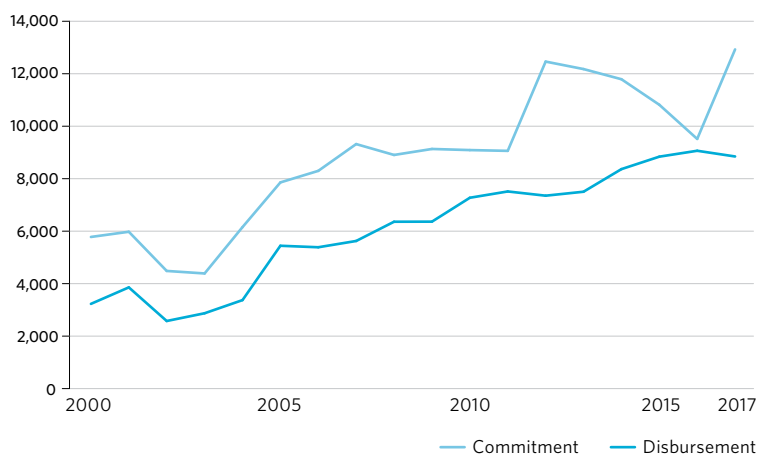
Implementation of integrated water resources management, 2018 (percentage)



Commitments of donor aid to the water sector have increased, while disbursements have levelled off

Disbursements of official development assistance (ODA) by donor countries to the water sector increased for several years, reaching nearly \$9.1 billion in 2016. However, from 2016 to 2017, ODA disbursements fell by 2 per cent. That drop may be due to donor stocktaking in the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, and corresponds to a fall in ODA commitments to the water sector between 2012 and 2016 (from \$12.5 billion to \$9.5 billion). Encouragingly, ODA commitments spiked by 36 per cent between 2016 and 2017, indicating a renewed focus by donors on the water sector. That large increase in ODA commitments was attributed mostly to a tripling of commitments to agricultural water resources, prompted by new projects in Southern and South-Eastern Asia. Water supply and sanitation also saw a substantial rise over that period, from \$7.6 billion to \$9.1 billion, with large increases in ODA committed to water sector policy and administrative management as well as to large water supply and sanitation systems.

ODA commitments and disbursements to the water sector, 2000–2017 (millions of constant 2016 dollars)



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



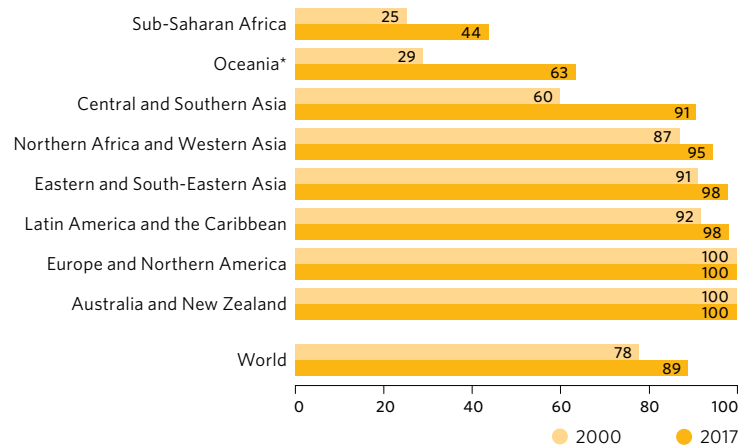
The world is making progress towards Goal 7 with encouraging signs that energy is becoming more sustainable and widely available. Access to electricity in poorer countries has begun to accelerate, energy efficiency continues to improve, and renewable energy is making impressive gains in the electricity sector. Nevertheless, more focused attention is needed to improve access to clean and safe cooking fuels and technologies for 3 billion people, to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the electricity sector, and to increase electrification in sub-Saharan Africa.

Nearly 9 out of 10 people now have access to electricity, but reaching the unserved will require increased efforts

More people are using electricity than ever before, with the proportion of the global population having access to this service rising from 83 per cent in 2010 to 87 per cent in 2015, then accelerating to 89 per cent in 2017 (a gain of 1 percentage point annually in the past two years). Still, 840 million people were without this essential service in 2017, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. In that region, only 44 per cent of the population had access, and an estimated 573 million people still lacked electricity.

Globally, electrification of rural areas progressed swiftly between 2015 and 2017, but a large gap remains. In 2017, rural coverage was 78 per cent compared to 97 per cent in urban areas. This means that 87 per cent of the people currently without electricity live in rural areas. Future electrification efforts will face the complexities of reaching unserved populations, including those who are displaced or living in remote, hard-to-reach communities and those connected to a frail and overburdened urban grid.

Proportion of population with access to electricity, 2000 and 2017 (percentage)



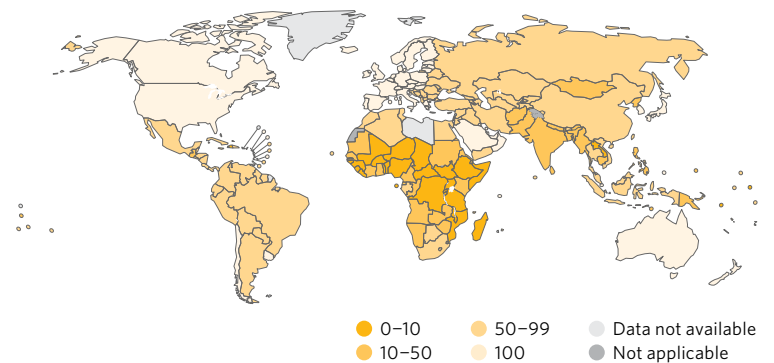
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Three billion people still lack clean cooking fuels and technologies, posing a grave threat to human health and the environment

Access to clean and safe cooking fuels and technologies has increased since 2010 at an annual rate of 0.5 percentage points, reaching 61 per cent of the global population in 2017. This is far too slow to meet the SDG target and still leaves nearly 3 billion people dependent on inefficient and highly polluting cooking systems, resulting in nearly 4 million premature deaths each year. The lack of cleaner fuels and technologies remains a major contributor to poor health and environmental degradation in low- and middle-income countries.

In sub-Saharan Africa, advances in the use of clean fuels (such as liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas and electricity) and fuel-efficient stoves have not kept pace with population growth, in contrast to other regions. Tackling the problem will require concerted action on the part of policymakers to address key barriers, including availability, affordability, reliability, limited financing and consumer awareness.

Proportion of population with access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, 2017 (percentage)

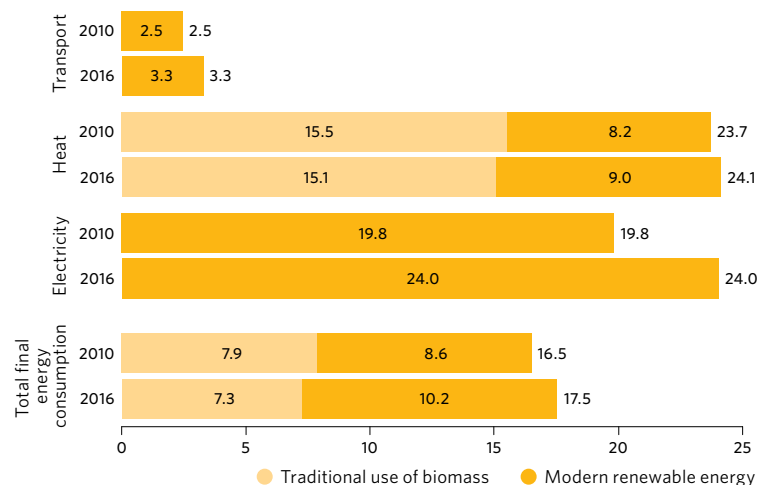


Progress in the electricity sector must extend to transportation and heating to meet an ambitious renewable energy target

The share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption reached 17.5 per cent in 2016, up from 16.6 per cent in 2010. In absolute terms, renewable energy consumption grew by 18 per cent over that period. The share of modern renewable energy increased at a faster pace, from 8.6 per cent in 2010 to 10.2 per cent in 2016. This category excludes traditional biomass use—that is, the inefficient use of solid biomass, such as the burning of wood, charcoal or other organic matter.

Most growth in renewable energy has been concentrated in the electricity sector. This is mainly due to the rapid expansion of wind and solar power, prompted by sustained policy support and cost reductions. However, electricity makes up only 20 per cent of final energy use. The remaining 80 per cent is concentrated in the heat and transport sectors, where modern renewables penetrated only 9 per cent and 3.3 per cent of the global market, respectively, in 2016. Meeting the ambitious SDG target will require increased policy attention to the deployment of modern renewables in both of these key sectors.

Proportion of renewable energy in total final energy consumption and by end use, 2010 and 2016 (percentage)



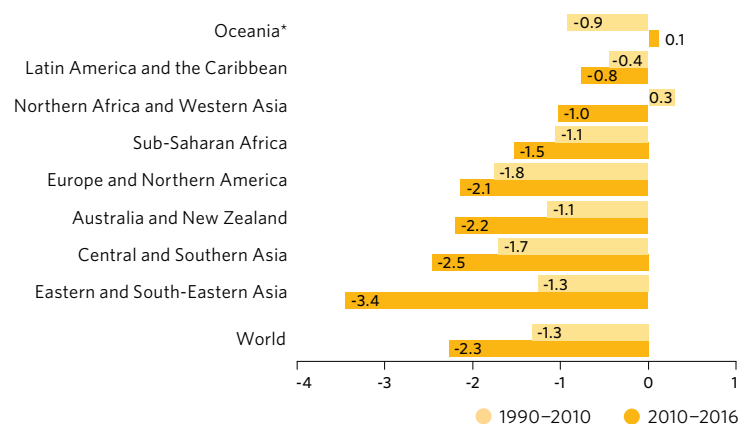
Notes: Totals may not equal the sum of parts due to rounding. Heat refers to the amount of energy used for heat-generating purposes. Traditional biomass use corresponds to the use of local solid biomass resources by low-income households that do not have access to modern cooking and heating fuels or technologies, including consumption in the residential sector of developing countries.

Energy efficiency continues to improve, but more concerted action is needed to reach the SDG target

Improving energy efficiency—along with increasing energy access and affordability—is central to the global goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Primary energy intensity, defined as total energy supply per unit of GDP, improved by 2.5 per cent in 2016, bringing the annual rate of improvement between 2010 and 2016 to 2.3 per cent. This is far better than the progress observed between 1990 and 2010, when annual improvements averaged 1.3 per cent. However, it still falls short of the SDG target of at least 2.7 per cent. What's more, the latest estimates for 2017 and 2018 suggest a slowdown in improvement.

To boost progress, governments will need to set their energy efficiency ambitions higher. Fortunately, a range of policy options are available, all of which have been implemented in some form, to spur efficiency gains and provide the basis for more effective action.

Improvement rate of primary energy intensity, 1990–2010 and 2010–2016 (percentage)

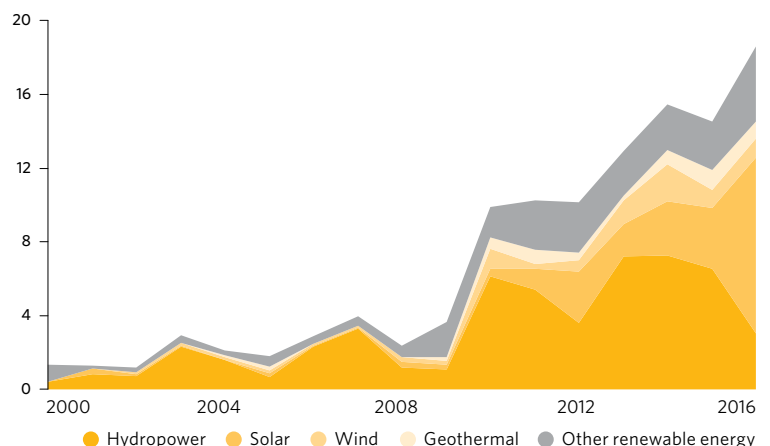


* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

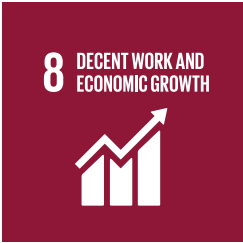
International financing for renewable energy in developing countries is rising sharply

From 2000 to 2009, official international financing commitments for clean and renewable energy in developing countries ranged from \$1 billion to \$4 billion a year. Commitments rose to \$9.9 billion in 2010 and to \$18.6 billion by 2016, a tenfold increase from the early 2000s. Yearly financial flows fluctuated greatly, mainly due to the timing of large-scale hydropower investments. But overall, the share of hydropower in the total flow fell from 60 per cent between 2000 and 2009 to around 40 per cent between 2010 and 2016, while the shares of wind, geothermal and, especially, solar energy, increased. Average project size also grew from an average of \$10 million per project between 2000 and 2009 to \$19 million between 2014 and 2016.

International financial commitments from official sources to developing countries in support of clean and renewable energy, 2000–2016 (billions of dollars, constant 2016 prices)



Note: The category "other renewables" includes bioenergy, marine and other renewable energy.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



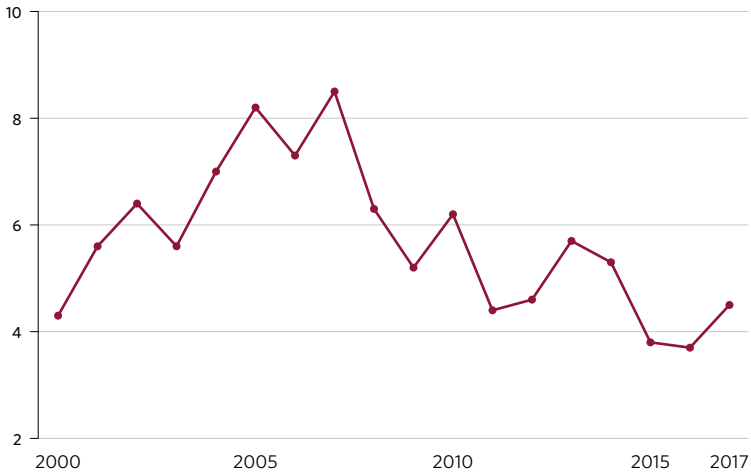
Sustained and inclusive economic growth can drive progress, create decent jobs for all and improve living standards. Globally, real GDP per capita and labour productivity have increased, and unemployment has dropped back to pre-financial-crisis levels. However, sluggish growth overall has prompted a rethinking of economic and social policies to achieve the transformational objectives of Goal 8 so as to meet economic growth targets in least developed countries; increase employment opportunities, especially for young people;

reduce inequalities across regions, age groups and genders; decrease informal employment; and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers.

Economic growth in least developed countries is again on the upswing, but the 7 per cent target is still out of reach

Real GDP per capita—a proxy for the average standard of living—increased globally by 1.9 per cent in 2017, compared to by 1.3 per cent in 2016. That growth is expected to remain steady at about 2 per cent until 2020. In least developed countries (LDCs), the SDG target aims for at least 7 per cent real GDP growth. In those countries, real GDP accelerated from an average annual rate of 5.8 per cent over the period 2000 to 2004, to 7.1 per cent over 2005 to 2009, before slowing to 4.8 per cent over 2010 to 2017. Growth in LDCs is expected to climb to 5.7 per cent in 2020 owing to favourable external economic conditions along with stable commodity prices that encourage financial flows and investment in natural resource projects and infrastructure. However, this still falls short of the target. Policies that promote economic diversification in those countries are needed to ensure long-term sustainability and more inclusive growth.

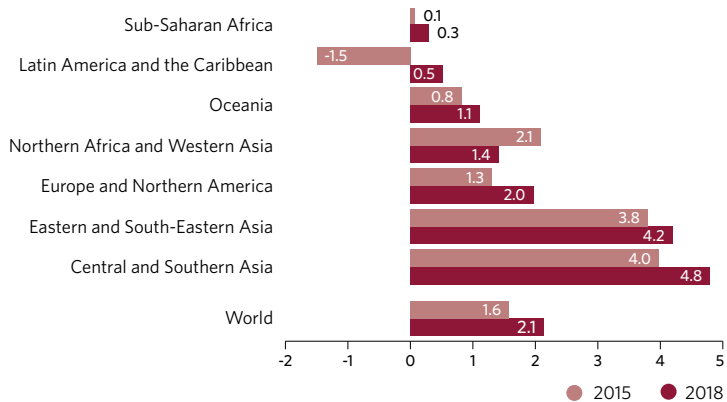
Annual growth rate in real GDP in least developed countries, 2000-2017 (percentage)



Labour productivity is rising, although wide disparities can be found among regions

Since the global economic downturn of 2009, labour productivity (measured as GDP per employed person) has been increasing worldwide, with consistently positive annual growth rates since 2010. In 2018, labour productivity increased by 2.1 per cent globally, the highest annual growth since 2010. However, wide disparities are found across regions. Between 2017 and 2018, average output per worker grew the most in Central and Southern Asia (4.8 per cent) and in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (4.2 per cent), while little changed in sub-Saharan Africa (0.3 per cent) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (0.5 per cent).

Annual growth rate of real GDP per worker, 2015 and 2018 (percentage)



Informal employment remains a major challenge to the goal of decent work for all

Informal employment remains pervasive throughout the developing world. Based on the latest available data for 54 developing countries, in three quarters of countries, more than half of those with jobs in non-agricultural sectors are informally employed. In about 70 per cent of countries, the share of informal employment in non-agricultural sectors is higher for women than for men. These findings warrant urgent attention from policymakers given the adverse impact of informal employment on earnings, social protection, occupational safety, health and working conditions generally. Informal employment is linked to higher poverty rates and is a major challenge to the goal of decent work for all.

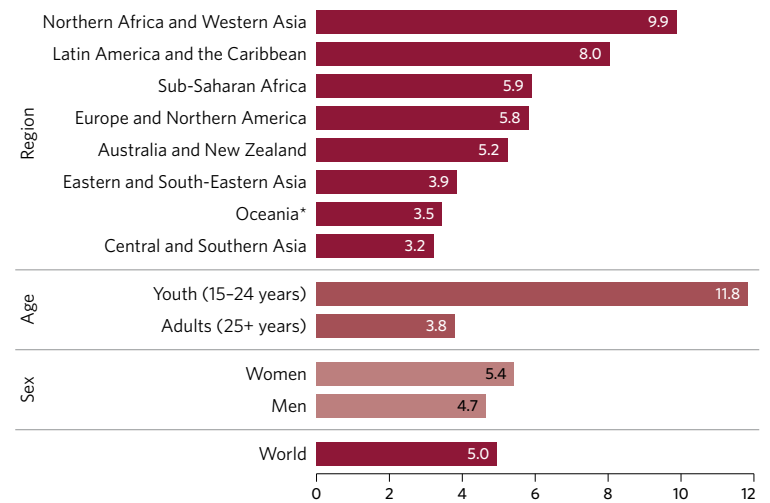
The continuing pay gap between women and men is a glaring reminder of gender inequality

Women still earn less than men. An analysis of the latest available data for 62 countries found that men's median hourly pay is 12 per cent higher than that of women. Furthermore, men had a wage advantage in every major occupational category in 49 countries with relevant data. The median gender pay gap exceeded 20 per cent in managerial and professional occupations, and among craft and related trade workers and plant machine operators and assemblers. Gender pay gaps are rooted in rigid social norms and cultural expectations about women's roles in society. When combined with differences in employment opportunities and lower access to social protection, they can result in long-term income gaps and compromise gender equality now and in the future.

The global unemployment rate is steadily dropping, but remains high in some regions and among youth

The global unemployment rate has finally recovered from the global financial crisis of 2009. In 2018, it stood at 5 per cent—matching the pre-crisis level. However, large disparities exist across regions and age groups. In 2018, the unemployment rates in Northern Africa and Western Asia (9.9 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (8.0 per cent) were over 2.5 times higher than those in Central and Southern Asia (3.2 per cent). While gender disparities in unemployment rates are less than 1 per cent globally, they are alarming in some regions, such as Western Asia and Northern Africa. In those regions, the unemployment rate for women was over 8 percentage points higher than for men in 2018; in Latin America and the Caribbean, the rate for women was almost 3 percentage points higher. What's more, youth are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. In 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 12 per cent compared to 4 per cent for adults.

Unemployment rate, by region, age and sex, 2018 (percentage)



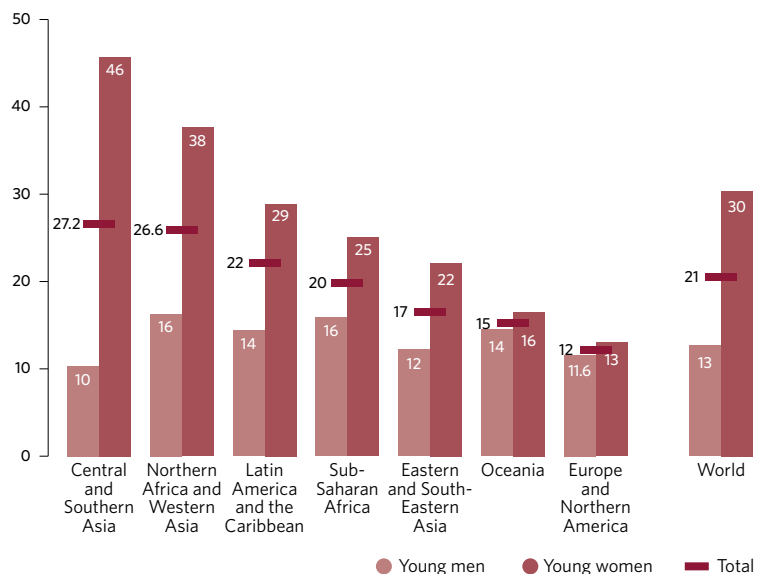
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

The talents and energy of one fifth of the world's youth are not being effectively harnessed

In 2018, one fifth of the world's youth were not engaged in either education, employment or training (NEET). In other words, they were neither gaining professional experience nor acquiring or developing skills through educational or vocational programmes during that formative stage of life. The situation is most serious in Central and Southern Asia and in Northern African and Western Asia, where more than one quarter of youth fall into this category.

Gender differences in this regard are pervasive. In 2018, young women were more than twice as likely as young men to be unemployed or outside the labour force and not in school or in a training programme (young women had a NEET rate of 30 per cent compared to 13 per cent for young men). In Central and Southern Asia, 46 per cent of young women fell into this category compared to 10 per cent of young men.

Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training, by sex, 2018 (percentage)





Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Inclusive and sustainable industrialization, together with innovation and infrastructure, can unleash dynamic and competitive economic forces that generate employment and income. They play a key role in introducing and promoting new technologies, facilitating international trade and enabling the efficient use of resources. However, the world still has a long way to go to fully tap this potential. LDCs, in particular, need to accelerate the development of their manufacturing sector if they are to meet the 2030 target, and scale up investment in scientific research and innovation. On a positive note, the carbon intensity of manufacturing industries declined at an annual rate of almost 3 per cent from 2010 and 2016, showing a general decoupling

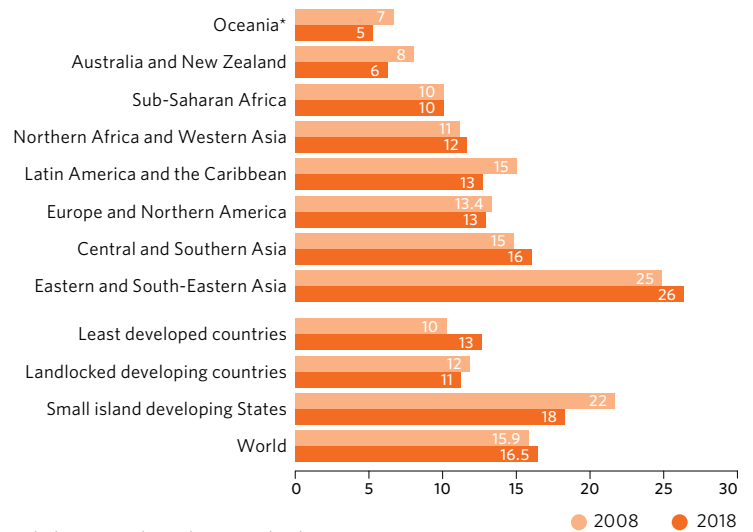


of CO₂ emissions and GDP growth. Total official flows for economic infrastructure in developing countries reached \$59 billion in 2017, an increase of 32.5 per cent in real terms since 2010. Further, impressive gains have been made in mobile connectivity.

Despite recent progress, industrialization in least developed countries is still too slow to meet the 2030 target

The growth of manufacturing in both developing and developed regions slowed in 2018, attributed largely to emerging trade and tariff barriers that constrain investment and future expansion. Despite the slowdown, the global share of manufacturing value added (MVA) in GDP increased marginally—from 15.9 per cent in 2008 to 16.5 per cent in 2018, when it began to plateau. In LDCs, the share of manufacturing in total GDP increased 2.5 per cent annually between 2015 and 2018. However, that still falls short of the pace needed to achieve a doubling of the MVA share in GDP by 2030, and calls for accelerated action. The disparities in industrial productivity between rich and poor nations remain stark. For instance, MVA per capita was only \$114 in LDCs compared to \$4,938 in Europe and Northern America, in 2018.

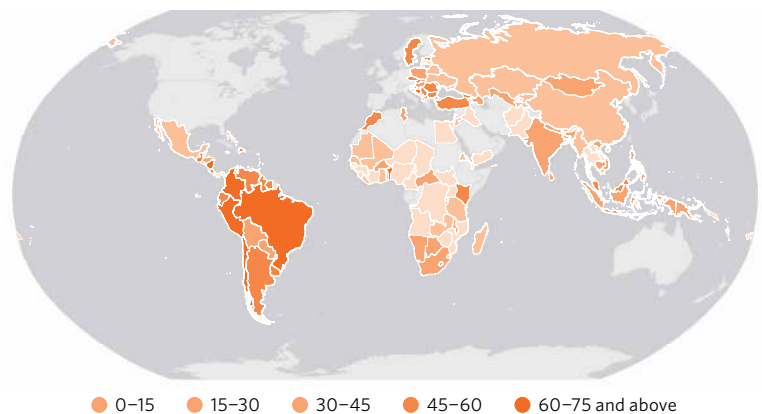
Manufacturing value added share in GDP, 2008 and 2018 (percentage)



Small-scale industries in the poorest countries lack the financial services they need to grow and innovate

Small-scale industries are the backbone of industrial development in developing countries. With a relatively small amount of capital investment and a predominantly local resource base, small-scale industries generate a substantial amount of employment and self-employment. However, one of the biggest challenges those industries face is access to loans or lines of credit for everyday business activities. Adequate financing is crucial for those industries to grow, since it allows them to innovate, improve efficiency, expand to new markets and create new job opportunities. While 31.5 per cent of small-scale industries (manufacturing and services) worldwide benefit from loans or lines of credit, regional differences stand out. For instance, more than half of all small-scale industries in Latin America and the Caribbean receive those types of financial services, compared to 20.7 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

Proportion of small-scale manufacturing enterprises with a loan or line of credit, most recent value, 2009–2018 (percentage)

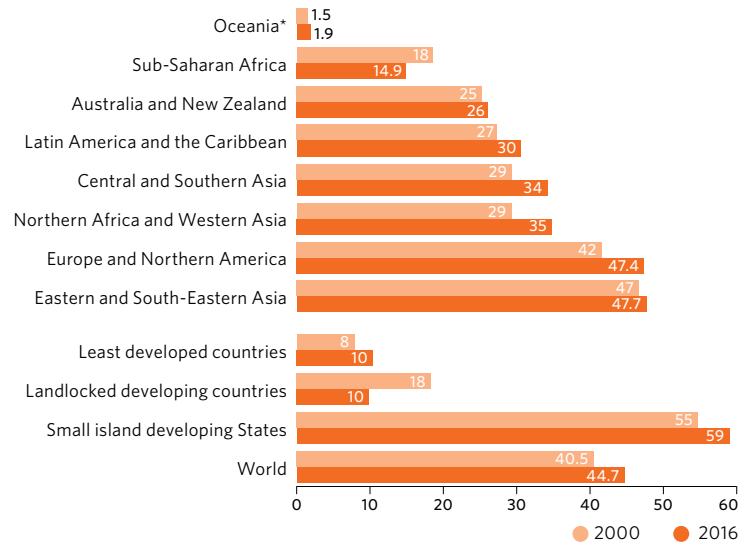


Higher-tech manufacturing is growing worldwide, except in sub-Saharan Africa

Recent years have seen a steady shift away from resource-based, low-tech manufacturing activities towards those that are medium-high- to high-tech. Those higher-tech manufacturing sectors are often reliant on the latest technologies and produce a wide array of consumer goods, from computers, televisions and other communications devices to appliances and other household equipment. The demand for such products tends to increase as income levels rise.

The share of medium-high- and high-tech industries in total MVA increased from 40.5 per cent in 2000 to 44.7 per cent in 2016, with large differences across regions. In Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and in Europe and Northern America, for example, over 47 per cent of total MVA came from higher-tech sectors in 2016. In contrast, the shares in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and sub-Saharan Africa were only 1.9 per cent and 14.9 per cent, respectively. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of medium-high- and high-tech MVA in total MVA actually fell between 2000 and 2016, but rose in all other regions.

Proportion of medium-high and high-tech MVA in total MVA, 2000 and 2016 (percentage)

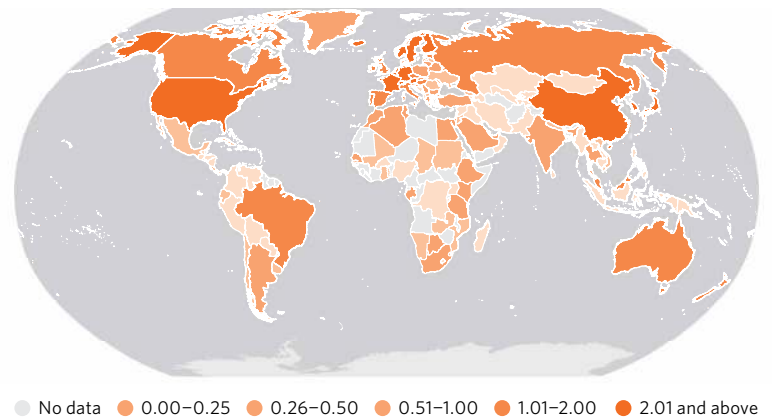


* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Global spending on research and development has reached \$2 trillion a year, with wide disparities among countries

The proportion of global GDP invested in research and development (R&D) increased from 1.52 per cent in 2000 to 1.68 per cent in 2016. In absolute terms, global R&D investment reached \$2 trillion (purchasing power parity) in 2016, up from \$739 billion in 2000. That represents an average annual growth rate of 4.3 per cent when adjusted for inflation. Wide disparities are found among regions. In Europe and Northern America, 2.21 per cent of GDP was spent on R&D in 2016, compared to 0.42 per cent and 0.83 per cent, respectively, in sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. Such disparities indicate the continued need for strong policy support for increased financing for R&D in developing regions.

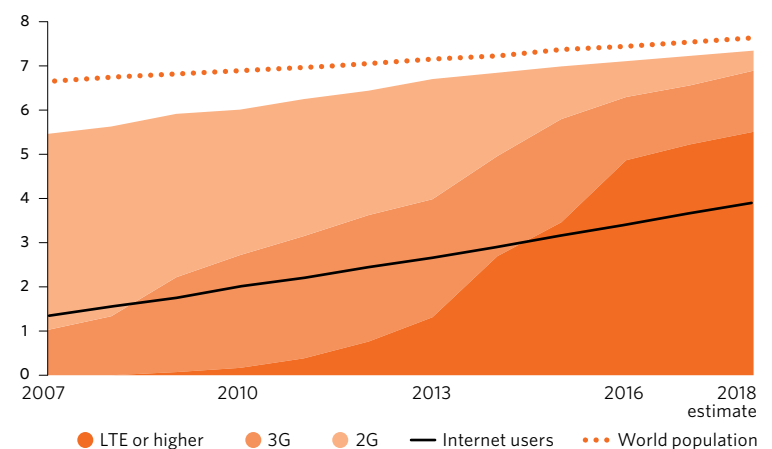
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a proportion of GDP, 2016 or latest available year (percentage)



Almost everyone now lives within range of mobile-cellular networks, but not all can afford to use them

Fixed-broadband Internet connections remain out of reach for many people. But coverage of mobile-cellular signals and mobile-broadband Internet has expanded rapidly, now reaching almost the entire global population. In 2018, 96 per cent of the world's population lived within reach of a mobile-cellular signal, and 90 per cent of people could access the Internet through a third generation (3G) or higher-quality network. However, while most live within range of these signals, not all are able to take advantage of them. The cost of accessing mobile-cellular networks and mobile-broadband Internet remains too high for many, particularly the most disadvantaged and at-risk population groups. In fact, just over half of the world's population is currently using the Internet, with rates much lower in LDCs (about 20 per cent).

Number of people covered by a mobile network, by technology, 2007–2018 (billions)



Note: LTE (Long-Term Evolution) is a standard for high-speed wireless communication that allows for faster speeds than 3G technologies but does not meet the technical criteria of a 4G wireless service.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Inequality within and among countries is a persistent cause for concern, despite progress in some areas. Income inequality continues to rise in many parts of the world, even as the poorest 40 per cent of the population in most countries experience income growth. Greater focus is needed to reduce income and other inequalities, including those related to labour market access and trade. Specifically, additional efforts are needed to further increase zero-tariff access for exports from poorer countries, and to provide technical assistance



to LDCs and small island developing States seeking to benefit from preferential trade status.

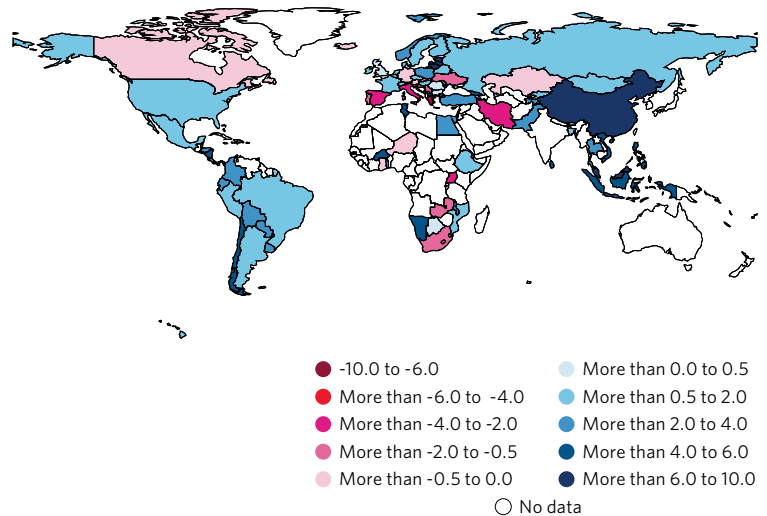
Data show mixed progress on the sharing of prosperity within countries

To gauge whether the poorest people in a country are participating in economic progress, it is useful to compare the growth of household income (or consumption) of the poorest 40 per cent with that of the population as a whole. That provides one indication of whether overall prosperity is being shared with the bottom 40 per cent of the income ladder in a country.

In 92 countries with comparable data over the period 2011 to 2016, the results were mixed. In 69 countries, the poorest 40 per cent saw their income grow, but with large variations among countries. In 50 of those 69 countries, income growth in the poorest 40 per cent of the population was faster than the national average. Notably, however, the bottom 40 per cent still received less than 25 per cent of overall income. In many countries, an increasing share of income goes to the top 1 per cent.

Data measuring household income for that analysis were limited. Only 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa had data on income growth for the most recent period. That points to the ongoing need for improved data collection and statistical capacity-building, especially in the poorest countries.

Annualized per capita growth rate of income of the bottom 40 per cent of the population compared to the total population, 2011-2016 (percentage)



Rich and poor countries alike can benefit from policies promoting equality and inclusivity

An important development objective for many countries is easing inequality and addressing social inclusion. One indicator of relative poverty and inequality is the share of people living below 50 per cent of the median income level. An analysis of data from 110 high- and low-income countries showed that the median country had 14 per cent of the population with income levels below that threshold. The most unequal country had 26 per cent below that threshold, and the most equal country had 3 per cent. But both rich and poor countries have high and low levels of inequality. Income inequality is not strongly correlated with either poverty or affluence, suggesting that policies promoting equality and inclusivity have universal relevance.

Countries with a high proportion of non-performing loans need to attend to the health of their banking systems

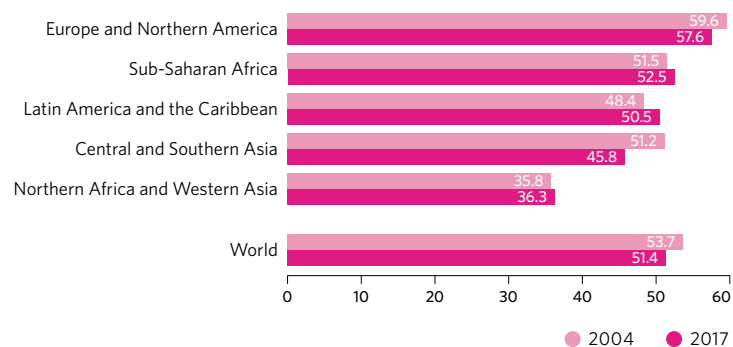
The stability of a country's financial system is key to efficiently allocating resources, managing risks, and ensuring that macroeconomic objectives that benefit all are met. One measure of financial stability is the share of non-performing loans in relation to total loans to depositors in a banking system. An analysis of 138 countries from 2010 to 2017 showed that, in half of the countries, non-performing loans made up less than 5 per cent of total loans. In 2017, more than one quarter of the countries showed a higher percentage of non-performing loans (10 per cent or more), and four countries showed a proportion higher than 30 per cent. A high proportion of non-performing loans usually affects profitability and undermines the broader business environment, which can have consequences for economic growth, unemployment and other factors affecting inequality.

Globally, the share of national output used to remunerate workers is declining

The share of national income that goes to labour is one indication of whether economic growth will translate into higher incomes for workers over time. Increased national income can lead to improved living standards, but that depends on its distribution across aspects of production, including labour, capital and land.

Globally, the share of national income going to labour has shown a downward trend since 2004. That means that the share of national output used to remunerate workers has declined. The decrease was temporarily reversed during the global financial crisis of 2008–2009 due to a sudden contraction in GDP. Central and Southern Asia and Europe and Northern America were the main drivers of the declining global labour share. Between 2004 and 2017, the adjusted labour share of GDP decreased by more than 5 percentage points in Central and Southern Asia (from 51.2 to 45.8 per cent) and close to 2 percentage points in Europe and Northern America (from 59.6 to

Labour share of GDP, 2004 and 2017 (percentage)



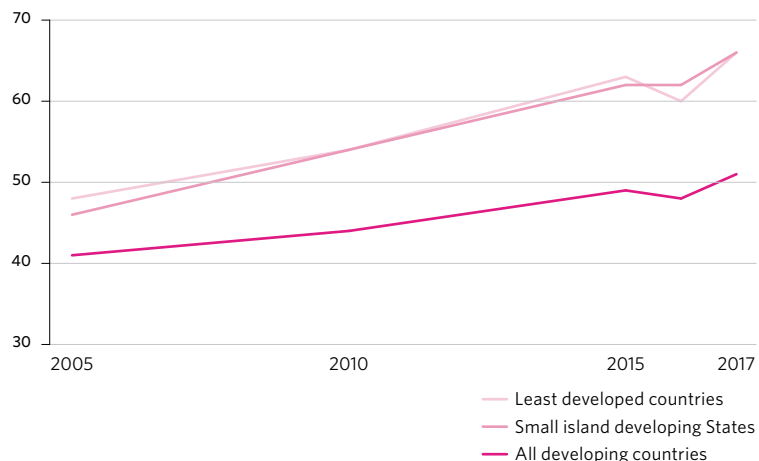
57.6 per cent). Conversely, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the labour income share increased from 48.4 to 50.5 per cent during the same period.

Lower-income countries continue to benefit from preferential trade status

Duty-free access continued to increase for exports from LDCs, small island developing States and developing regions at large. LDCs saw the biggest benefits: coverage of duty-free treatment increased by 5.5 percentage points between 2016 and 2017, reaching 65.6 per cent of all products exported. About 51 per cent of exports from developing regions have now become eligible for duty-free treatment.

At the sector level, improvements in the treatment of LDCs were primarily due to growing duty-free access for agricultural and industrial products (increases of 7.3 and 5.4 percentage points, respectively). However, such access for LDCs and other developing countries is not automatic at customs checkpoints. Exporters need to comply with rules-of-origin certification processes to benefit from preferential treatment. Those procedures can be costly and time-consuming for small- and medium-sized enterprises, lowering their incentive to apply for preferential treatment.

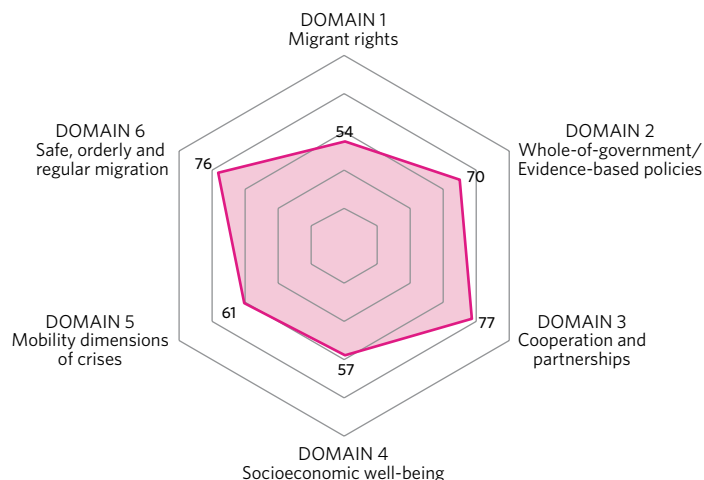
Proportion of tariff lines with zero tariffs applied to exports from developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing States, 2005–2017 (percentage)



Policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration are widespread, but far from universal

The majority of countries have policies that facilitate the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. Yet significant differences can be found across the six policy domains of this indicator. For each domain, more than half of the 105 countries with available data have a comprehensive set of policy measures, meaning that they reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the subcategories of each domain. Migrant rights and socioeconomic well-being are the areas demonstrating the largest policy gaps, with over 40 per cent of countries lacking a comprehensive set of measures in those domains. Policies to promote cooperation and partnerships and to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration are the most widespread, with more than three quarters of countries reporting a wide range of such measures.

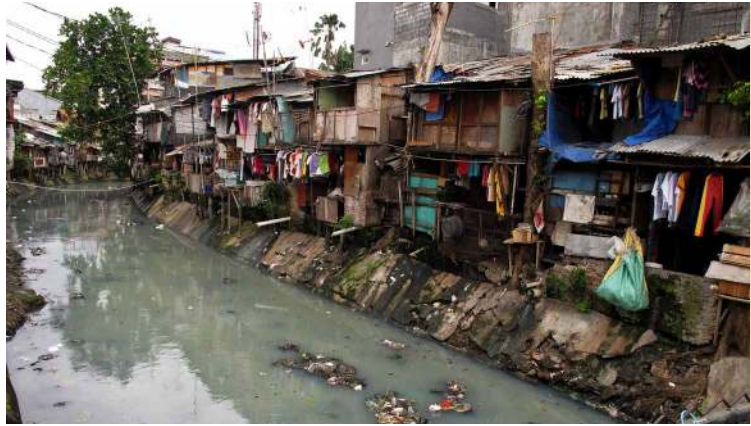
Governments with policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, by policy domain, 2019 (percentage)



Note: Based on provisional data available for 105 countries (as of 17 May 2019).



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



The world is becoming increasingly urbanized. Since 2007, more than half the world’s population has been living in cities, and that share is projected to rise to 60 per cent by 2030. Cities and metropolitan areas are powerhouses of economic growth—contributing about 60 per cent of global GDP. However, they also account for about 70 per cent of global carbon emissions and over 60 per cent of resource use. Rapid urbanization is resulting in a growing number of slum dwellers, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services (such as waste collection and water and sanitation systems, roads and transport), worsening air pollution and unplanned urban

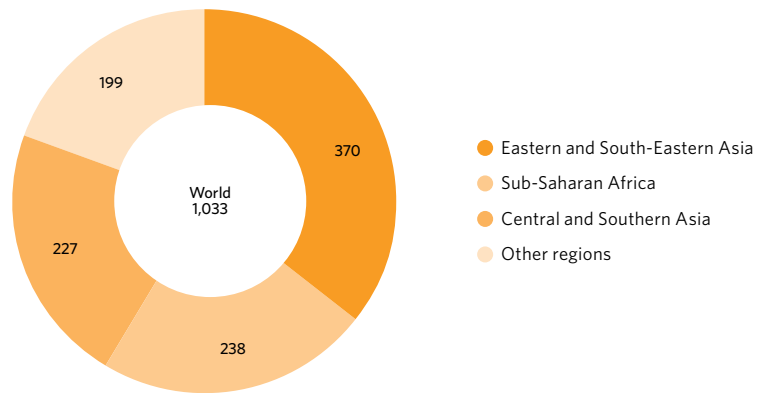
sprawl. To respond to those challenges, 150 countries have developed national urban plans, with almost half of them in the implementation phase. Ensuring that those plans are well executed will help cities grow in a more sustainable and inclusive manner.

Rapid urbanization and population growth are outpacing the construction of adequate and affordable housing

The proportion of the urban population living in slums worldwide declined by 20 per cent between 2000 and 2014 (from 28 per cent to 23 per cent). That positive trend recently reversed course, and the proportion grew to 23.5 per cent in 2018. The absolute number of people living in slums or informal settlements grew to over 1 billion, with 80 per cent attributed to three regions: Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (370 million), sub-Saharan Africa (238 million) and Central and Southern Asia (227 million). An estimated 3 billion people will require adequate and affordable housing by 2030.

The growing number of slum dwellers is the result of both urbanization and population growth that are outpacing the construction of new affordable homes. Adequate housing is a human right, and the absence of it negatively affects urban equity and inclusion, health and safety, and livelihood opportunities. Renewed policy attention and increased investments are needed to ensure affordable and adequate housing for all by 2030.

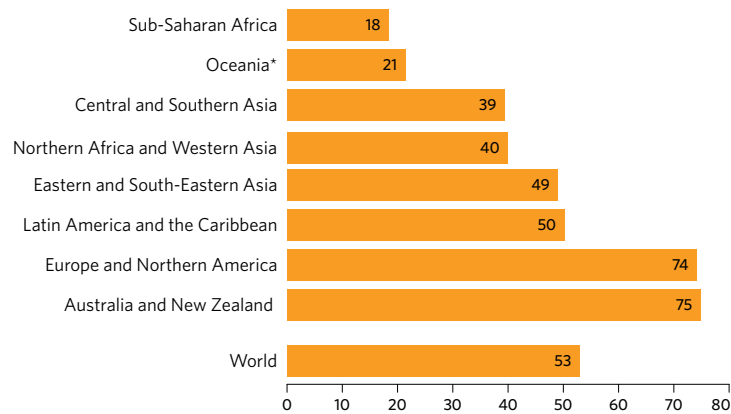
Urban population living in slums or informal settlements, 2018 (millions of people)



Access to public transport is increasing, but faster progress is needed in developing regions

Public transport is an essential service for urban residents and a catalyst for economic growth and social inclusion. Moreover, with ever-increasing numbers of people moving to urban areas, the use of public transport is helping to mitigate air pollution and climate change. According to 2018 data from 227 cities, in 78 countries, 53 per cent of urban residents had convenient access to public transport (defined as residing within 500 metres walking distance of a bus stop or a low-capacity transport system or within 1,000 metres of a railway and/or ferry terminal). In most regions, the number of people using public transport rose by nearly 20 per cent between 2001 and 2014. Sub-Saharan Africa lagged behind, with only 18 per cent of its residents having convenient access to public transport. In some regions with low access, informal transport modes are widely available and, in many cases, provide reliable transport. Stronger efforts are needed to ensure that sustainable transport is available to all, particularly to vulnerable populations such as women, children, seniors and persons with disabilities.

Share of population with convenient access to public transport, 2018 (percentage)



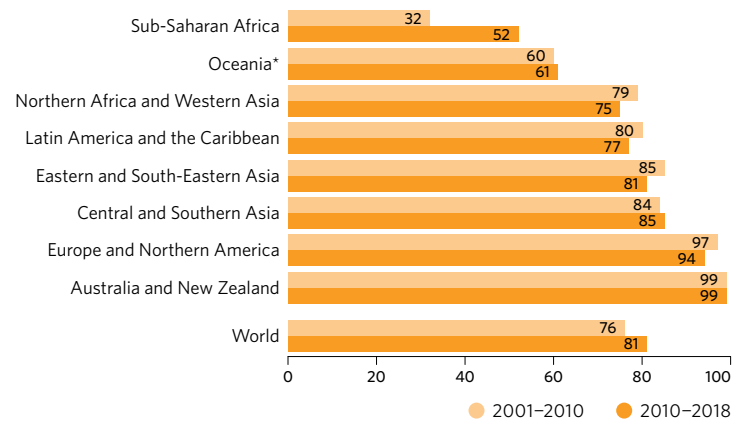
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Municipal waste is mounting, highlighting the growing need for investment in urban infrastructure

Globally, 2 billion people were without waste collection services, and 3 billion people lacked access to controlled waste disposal facilities, according to data collected between 2010 and 2018. The problem will only worsen as urbanization increases, income levels rise and economies become more consumer-oriented. The total amount of waste generated globally is expected to double from nearly 2 billion metric tons in 2016 to about 4 billion metric tons by 2050.

The proportion of municipal solid waste collected regularly increased from 76 per cent between 2001 and 2010 to 81 per cent between 2010 and 2018. But that does not mean that it was disposed of properly. Many municipal solid waste disposal facilities in low- and middle-income countries are open dumpsites, which contribute to air, water and soil pollution, including by plastic waste, as well as emissions of greenhouse gases such as methane. Investment in waste management infrastructure is urgently needed to improve the handling of solid waste across much of the world.

Proportion of municipal solid waste collected, 2001–2010 and 2010–2018 (percentage)



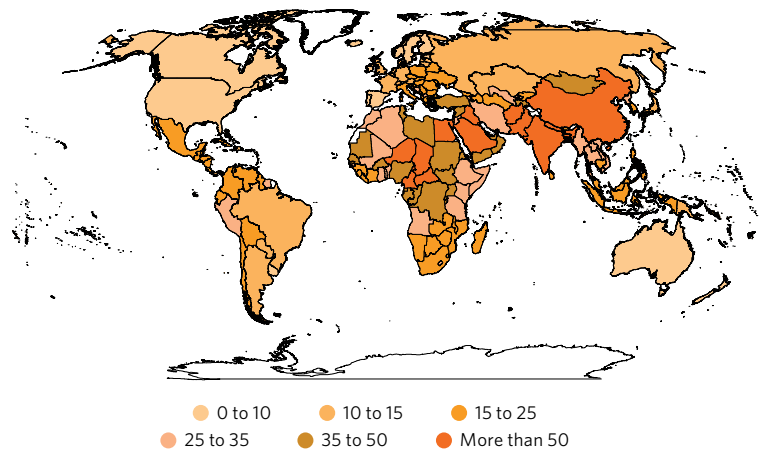
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

In too many cities, air pollution has become an unavoidable health hazard

Nine out of ten urban residents in 2016 were breathing polluted air—that is, air that did not meet the WHO air quality guidelines for annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) of 10 micrograms or less per cubic metre. More than half of those people were exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times above the guideline value. Air quality worsened between 2010 and 2016 for more than 50 per cent of the world's population. Central and Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are the two regions that saw the largest increases in particulate matter concentrations.

In low- and middle-income countries, the air quality of 97 per cent of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants did not meet air quality guidelines in 2016, compared to 49 per cent in high-income countries. Ambient air pollution from traffic, industry, power generation, waste burning and residential fuel combustion, combined with household air pollution, poses a major threat to both human health and efforts to curb climate change. More than 90 per cent of air-pollution-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, mainly in Asia and Africa.

Annual exposure to ambient fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in urban areas, population weighted, 2016 (micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³))

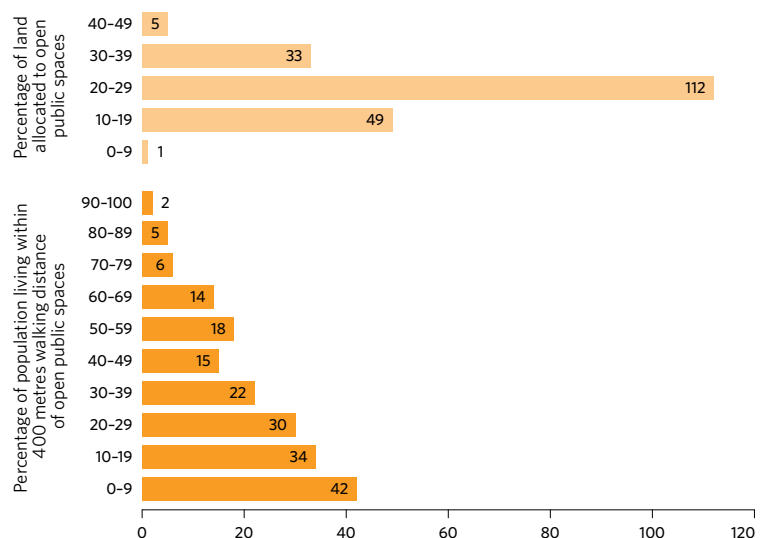


Open public spaces make cities more inclusive, but many residents are not within easy walking distance of them

A connective matrix of streets and public spaces forms the skeleton of the city upon which everything else rests. Where public space is inadequate, poorly designed or privatized, the city becomes increasingly segregated. Investment in networks of streets and open public spaces improves urban productivity, livelihoods and access to markets, jobs and public services, especially in countries where over half of the urban workforce is informal.

Based on 2018 data from 220 cities, in 77 countries, few cities have been able to implement a system of open public spaces that covers entire urban areas—that is, within easy reach of all residents. Findings show that the average share of the population within 400 metres walking distance of an open public space is around 31 per cent, with huge variations among cities (from a low of 5 per cent to a high of 90 per cent). A low percentage does not necessarily mean that an inadequate share of land is open public space, but rather that the distribution of such spaces across the city is uneven.

Distribution of cities by percentage of land allocated to open public spaces and by percentage of population living within 400 metres walking distance of open public spaces, 2018 (number of cities)



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Economic and social progress over the last century has been accompanied by environmental degradation that is endangering the very systems on which our future development—indeed, our very survival—depends. Globally, we continue to use ever-increasing amounts of natural resources to support our economic activity. The efficiency with which such resources are used remains unchanged at the global level, thus we have not yet seen a decoupling of economic growth and natural resource use. Globally, the generation of waste is mounting. About one third of the food produced for human consumption each year is lost or wasted, most of it in developed countries. Urgent action is needed to ensure that current

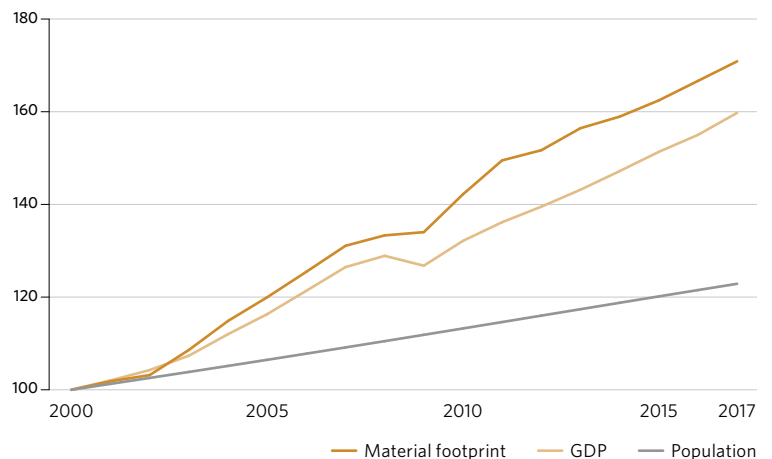


material needs do not lead to over-extraction of resources and further degradation of the environment. Policies must be embraced to improve resource efficiency, reduce waste and mainstream sustainability practices across all sectors of the economy.

Shrinking our material footprint is a global imperative

“Material footprint” refers to the total amount of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands. It is one indication of the pressures placed on the environment to support economic growth and to satisfy the material needs of people. The global material footprint rose from 43 billion metric tons in 1990 to 54 billion in 2000, and 92 billion in 2017—an increase of 70 per cent since 2000, and 113 per cent since 1990. The rate of natural resource extraction has accelerated since 2000. Without concerted political action, it is projected to grow to 190 billion metric tons by 2060. What’s more, the global material footprint is increasing at a faster rate than both population and economic output. In other words, at the global level, there has been no decoupling of material footprint growth from either population growth or GDP growth. It is imperative that we reverse that trend.

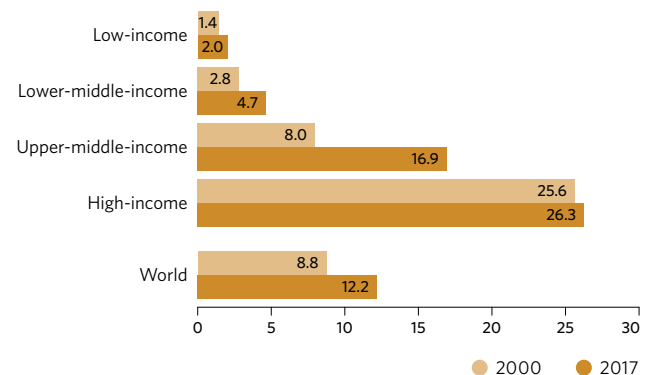
Population, material footprint and GDP growth index, 2000–2017 (baseline 2000=100)



The lifestyles of people in the richest nations are heavily dependent on resources extracted from poorer countries

The material footprint per capita has also increased at an alarming rate. In 1990, about 8.1 metric tons of natural resources were used to satisfy an individual’s needs. In 2017, that rose to 12.2 metric tons, an increase of 50 per cent. That year, high-income countries had the highest material footprint per capita (approximately 27 metric tons per person), 60 per cent higher than the upper-middle-income countries (17 metric tons per person) and more than 13 times the level of low-income countries (2 metric tons per person). The material footprint of high-income countries is greater than their domestic material consumption, indicating that consumption in those countries relies on materials from other countries through international supply chains. On a per-capita basis, high-income countries rely on 9.8 metric tons of primary materials extracted elsewhere in the world.

Material footprint per capita, 2000 and 2017 (metric tons per person)



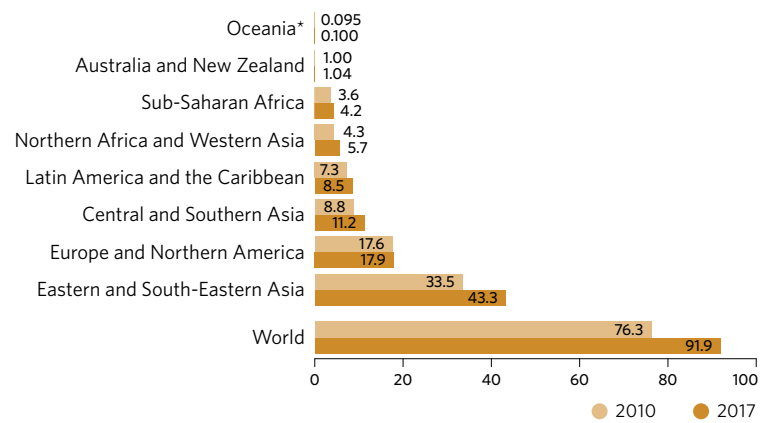
Improvements in the efficiency of resource use are not proceeding fast enough

Domestic material consumption (DMC) measures the total amount of materials directly used by an economy to meet the demands for goods and services from within and outside a country. At the global level, DMC is equivalent to the material footprint, and reached 92 billion metric tons in 2017. DMC increased from 2010 to 2017 in all regions of the world. Particularly striking is the increase in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, where about 10 billion more metric tons were used in 2017 than in 2010. That increase accounts for about two thirds of the increase at the global level.

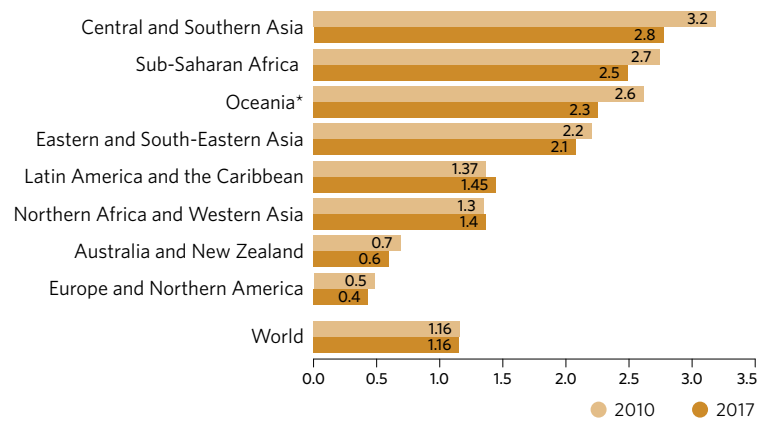
The rising share of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and other emerging economies in global DMC is due to two dynamics. The first is the construction of new infrastructure in emerging and transitioning economies, a pattern that many developing countries are likely to follow in the future. The second is the outsourcing of the material- and energy-intensive stages of production from high-income nations to less resource-efficient countries. The shift in production from the former to the latter means that more natural resources are needed to produce the same output.

Because that shift in economic activity happened faster than improvements in resource efficiency in individual countries, material intensity—defined as domestic material consumption per GDP—stagnated at an average of 1.16 kilograms per dollar from 2010 to 2017. In 2017, developed countries used about one fifth as many natural resources as developing countries to produce the same amount of economic output. Between 2010 and 2017, material intensity decreased in many regions, showing some progress towards the relative decoupling of economic output and DMC. But material intensity increased in other regions, resulting in no change at the global level. Good progress has been made in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Southern Asia and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), mostly as a result of increases in GDP.

Domestic material consumption, 2010 and 2017 (billions of metric tons)



Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP, 2010 and 2017 (kilogram per dollar)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Progress in sustainable consumption and production furthers progress in all the SDGs

The transition towards sustainable and resilient societies will ultimately depend on the responsible management of the planet's finite natural resources. Well-designed national policy frameworks and instruments are necessary to enable the fundamental shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. In 2018, 71 countries and the European Union reported on a total of 303 such policies and instruments.

A pilot study of 262 reported policies and instruments showed that, while the potential economic benefits of sustainable consumption and production processes are well recognized, social benefits are

still largely overlooked. That is, social benefits are rarely included in policy objectives or measured. For instance, 63 per cent of the reported policies and instruments examined their impact on air, soil and water pollution, 45 per cent on waste reduction and 43 per cent on greenhouse gas emissions. Only 11 per cent considered their impact on health, and 7 per cent looked at their impact on gender. Demonstrating the benefits of such policies to all the SDGs will be essential to understanding the overall contribution of sustainable consumption and production to sustainable development, and to building the coalition needed to support a transformative shift.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

As greenhouse gas levels continue to climb, climate change is occurring much faster than anticipated, and its effects are evident worldwide. The global mean temperature for 2018 was approximately 1°C above the pre-industrial baseline, and the last four years have been the warmest on record. Sea levels continue to rise at an accelerating rate.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and the greatest challenge to sustainable development. Its compounding effects are speeding up its advance, leaving very little time to act if we want to prevent runaway climate change. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is necessary to avoid catastrophic consequences and irreversible changes. That will require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land and urban infrastructure and industrial systems.



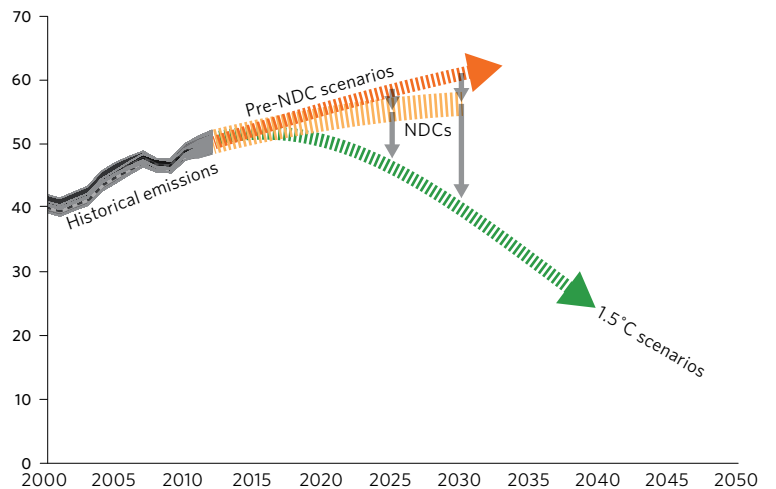
While countries have taken positive steps by preparing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and increasing financing to combat climate change, far more ambitious plans and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society are required. Access to finance and the strengthening of resilience and adaptive capacity need to be scaled up at a much faster pace, particularly among LDCs and small island developing States.

Unprecedented changes in all aspects of society will be required to avoid the worst effects of climate change

In 2017, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations reached 405.5 parts per million (ppm) (up from 400.1 ppm in 2015), representing 146 per cent of pre-industrial levels. To limit global warming to 1.5°C means that emissions will need to peak as soon as possible, followed by rapid reductions. Global carbon emissions need to fall by a staggering 45 per cent by 2030 from 2010 levels and continue at a steep decline to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

As of May 2019, 186 Parties had ratified the Paris Agreement. Parties to the agreement are expected to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs (including targets, policies and actions planned in response to climate change). As of that same date, 183 Parties (182 countries plus the European Union) had communicated their first NDCs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, and one Party had communicated its second NDC. Parties have been requested to update their existing NDCs or communicate new ones by 2020. To achieve the 2030 objectives, countries will need to be far more ambitious in preparing their new NDCs for submission.

Greenhouse gas emission levels resulting from the implementation of current NDCs and under other scenarios (gigatons of equivalent CO₂ per year)



Note: For a more detailed chart, please see figure 2 of the updated synthesis report of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions, 2 May 2016, available from http://unfccc.int/focus/indc_portal/items/9240.php.

Countries are developing disaster risk reduction strategies in the face of growing climate threats

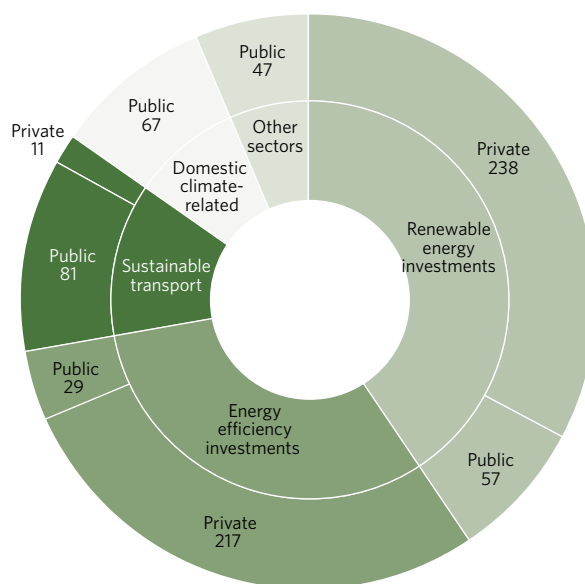
As described in Goal 1, climate change is already exacerbating disaster risk. From 1998 to 2017, climate-related disasters around the world accounted for 77 per cent of the nearly \$3 trillion in direct economic losses from disasters. Over that period, climate-related and geophysical disasters claimed an estimated 1.3 million lives. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 outlines clear targets and priorities for action to prevent new disaster risks and reduce existing ones. Since its adoption, countries have been making

efforts to develop and implement, by 2020, national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework. In the latest reports (2017–2018) from 70 countries, 67 had strategies that were aligned to some extent with the Sendai Framework. The biggest challenges are investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience and promoting policy coherence between the SDGs and climate change. Many local governments had developed local strategies in line with national strategies.

Climate-related financial flows have increased, but are small in relation to the scale of the problem and still overshadowed by investments in fossil fuels

Globally, climate-related financial flows have increased, with most of the funds dedicated to curbing greenhouse gas emissions. A relatively small share is helping countries adapt to the effects of climate change. The third biennial assessment by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat Standing Committee on Finance shows a 17 per cent increase in global climate finance from 2013–2014 to 2015–2016. Upper-limit estimates rose from \$584 billion in 2014 to \$680 billion in 2015 and to \$681 billion in 2016. The spurt in growth from 2014 to 2015 was driven largely by high levels of new private investment in renewable energy, which is the largest segment of the global total. While those financial flows are considerable, they are relatively small in relation to the scale of the problem and wider trends in global investment. Moreover, investments in climate activities are still surpassed by those related to fossil fuels (\$781 billion in 2016). Climate-related financing for developing countries increased by 24 per cent in 2015 to \$33 billion, and by 14 per cent in 2016 to \$38 billion. Financing channelled through United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change funds and multilateral climate funds in 2015 and 2016 totalled \$1.4 billion and \$2.4 billion, respectively. The increase from 2015 to 2016 is attributed to the ramping up of operations by the Green Climate Fund.

Global total climate finance flows by sector over the period 2015–2016 (in billions of dollars, annualized)

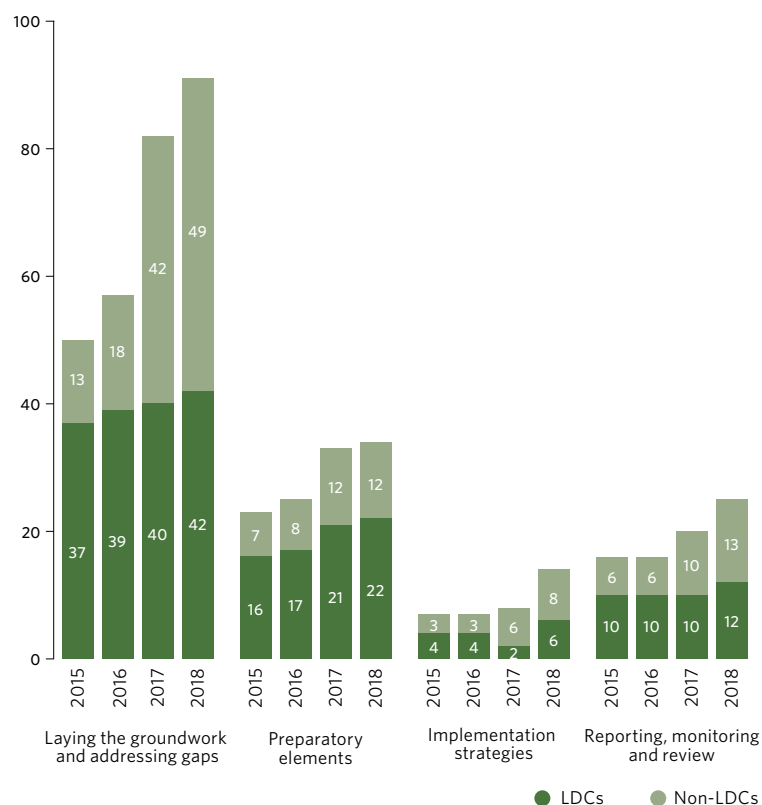


More countries are making plans to boost their resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change

Many developing countries have launched a process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and to integrate climate change adaptation into national development planning. Those plans will help countries achieve the global goal on adaptation under the Paris Agreement—namely, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. Thirteen countries, four of which are LDCs, have completed and submitted their NAPs to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while many others are at various stages in the process. Since 2015, the number of countries that have launched or initiated NAPs has increased by 45 per cent.

Funding for the formulation of NAPs is provided by the Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and the Least Developed Countries Fund. As of May 2019, 75 countries had sought a total of \$191 million in support from the Green Climate Fund for NAPs and other adaptation planning processes. Of those, 28 countries had accessed a total of \$75 million, two thirds of which went to LDCs, small island developing States and countries in Africa. Another seven countries were in the final stage of approval for a total of \$17 million in funding. Nine project proposals under the Least Developed Countries Fund were also approved to support the formulation and implementation of NAPs. Technical guidance and support to developing countries for NAPs is provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and other constituted bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. A total of 154 support activities have been reported since 2014.

Progress made by developing countries in formulating and implementing NAPs by stage of the process, 2015 to 2018





Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Life depends on oceans. They make up the planet's largest ecosystem—covering more than two thirds of the Earth's surface—and provide billions of people with food and livelihoods. Oceans produce about half the oxygen we breathe, and act as a climate regulator, absorbing atmospheric heat and more than one quarter of man-made CO₂. However, decades of increasing carbon emissions have led to a build-up of heat in the oceans and changes in their chemical composition. The resulting adverse effects of ocean acidification, climate change (including sea-level rise), extreme weather events and coastal erosion exacerbate ongoing threats to



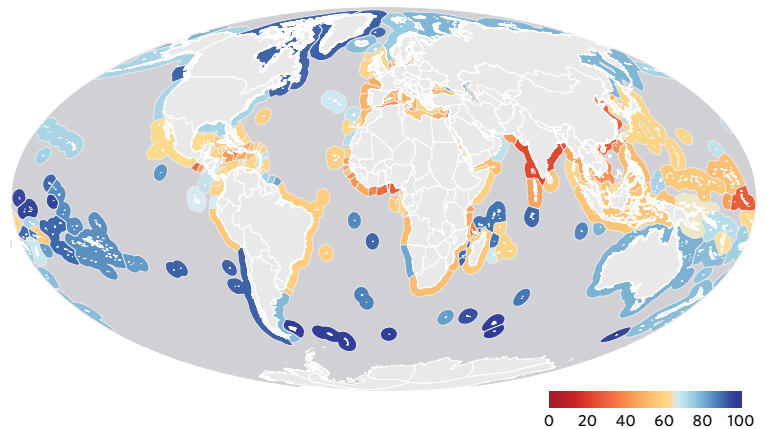
marine and coastal resources from overfishing, pollution and habitat degradation. Protected areas and policies and treaties that encourage responsible extraction of ocean resources are critical to confronting these threats.

Land-based pollutants and marine debris threaten coastal habitats, but improvements in water quality are achievable

Coastal areas worldwide are affected by land-based pollutants, including sewage and nutrient runoff, leading to coastal eutrophication, degraded water quality and the impairment of coastal marine ecosystems. Analysis of the clean water indicator, a measurement of the degree of ocean pollution, shows that water quality challenges are widespread, but are most acute in some equatorial zones, especially in parts of Asia, Africa and Central America.

Nearly all countries have room to improve their coastal water quality. Analysis of trends from 2012 to 2018 shows that positive change is indeed possible: 104 of 220 coastal regions improved their coastal water quality over that period. Such improvements require policy commitments at the country level to expand access to wastewater treatment and to reduce chemical and nutrient runoff from agricultural sources, along with global commitments to reduce plastic debris.

Clean water scores for 220 coastal regions, assessed on a scale of 0 (very polluted) to 100 (clean)

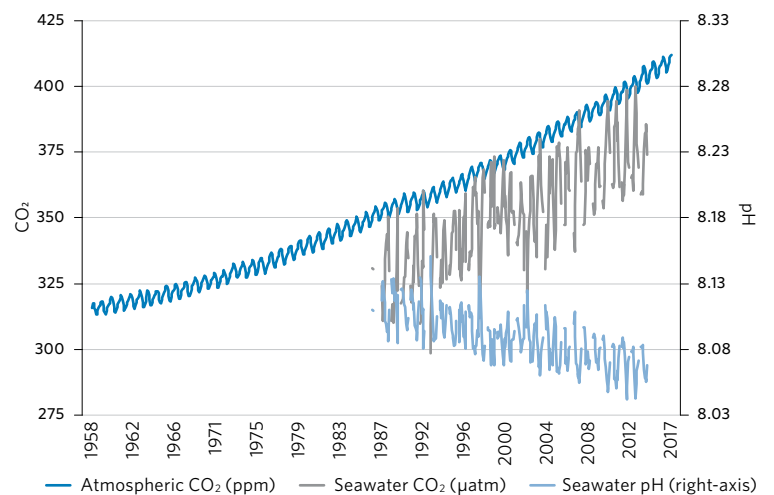


Increasing acidification is threatening marine life and hampering the ocean's role in moderating climate change

The uptake of atmospheric CO₂ by the ocean changes the chemical composition of seawater, altering its carbonate chemistry and resulting in a decrease of pH (and growing ocean acidification). Observations of ocean pH over the past 30 years have shown a decrease in surface pH of 0.1 units. This is equivalent to a 26 per cent increase in acidity from pre-industrial times. At the current rate of CO₂ emissions, an increase in acidity of 100 to 150 per cent by the end of this century is predicted.

Ocean acidification threatens organisms as well as ecosystem services, including food security, by endangering fisheries and aquaculture. It also impacts coastal protection (by weakening coral reefs, which shield the coastline), transportation and tourism. As the acidity of the ocean rises, its capacity to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere decreases, hampering the ocean's role in moderating climate change.

Atmospheric and seawater CO₂ concentrations, and seawater pH in the North Pacific, 1958–2017 (parts per million (ppm), micro-atmospheres (µatm) and pH)



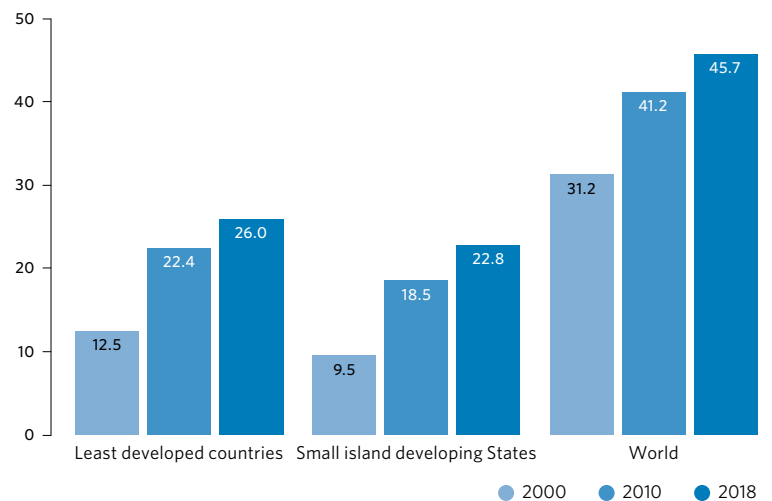
Note: Atmospheric CO₂ measured at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. Seawater CO₂ and pH measured at Station Aloha, Hawaii. Data from NOAA PMEL Carbon Program, available from www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2.

The extent of marine protected areas has doubled since 2010, but more must be done to safeguard key biodiversity areas

Protected areas play a critical role in sustainable development if they are both effectively managed and located in areas important for biodiversity. As of December 2018, 17 per cent of waters under national jurisdiction were covered by protected areas. This is a significant increase from 12 per cent in 2010 and more than double the coverage level in 2000. The mean percentage of marine key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas also increased from 31.2 per cent in 2000 to 45.7 per cent in 2018.

Despite that progress, the rate at which KBAs are being protected has slowed and, if current trends continue, will flatten by 2030. Developing countries, in particular LDCs and small island developing States, are lagging behind. A redoubling of efforts is needed to establish new marine protected areas and to strengthen the management of existing ones.

Mean percentage area of each important site (KBA) for marine biodiversity that is covered by protected areas, 2000, 2010 and 2018 (percentage)

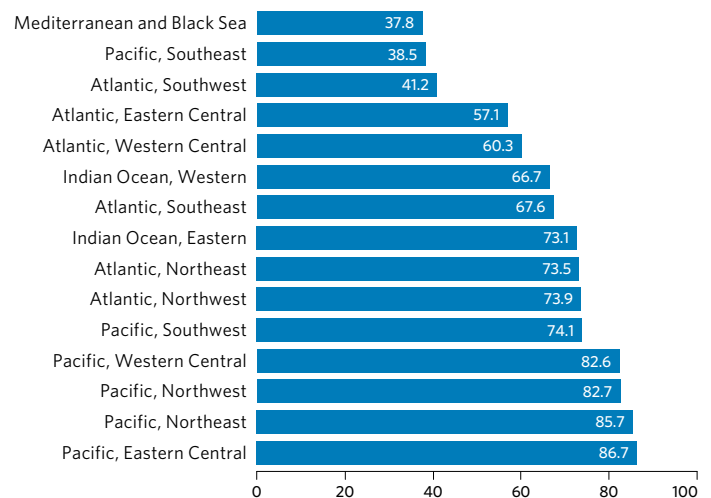


The decline in fish stocks appears to have stabilized; now they need to be rebuilt, especially in severely depleted regions

To preserve the health and productivity of fisheries, fish stocks must be maintained within biologically sustainable levels. Overfishing not only reduces food production, but also impairs the functioning of ecosystems and reduces biodiversity, with negative repercussions for the economy and society. Worldwide, the proportion of marine fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels declined from 90 per cent in 1974 to 67 per cent in 2015. However, this decreasing trend appears to have stabilized since 2008—an encouraging sign.

In 2015, the Mediterranean and Black Sea region had the lowest percentage of sustainable fish stocks (37.8 per cent), followed closely by the Southeast Pacific region (38.5 per cent). In contrast, the Eastern Central Pacific and Northeast Pacific regions had the highest proportion of fish stocks at biologically sustainable levels (above 85 per cent). More focused efforts are needed to rebuild overfished stocks, particularly in severely depleted regions.

Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, by marine region, 2015 (percentage)



States have taken important steps to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems. Ruthless poaching in fisheries often leads to their collapse, threatening livelihoods and exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. Small-scale fisheries in developing countries are particularly vulnerable. Countries have developed a range of international instruments to combat illegal fishing within a global framework to address fisheries management. The first international binding agreement developed expressly to combat IUU fishing, the Agreement on Port State Measures, entered into force in June 2016. As of March 2019, 59 States and one member organization—the European Union representing its 28 member States—were Parties to it. Worldwide implementation of the Agreement, supported by effective monitoring, control and surveillance, and supplemented by market access and trade measures, will boost international efforts to curb IUU fishing.

Most countries have frameworks to address the needs of small-scale fisheries; the next critical stage is their implementation

Almost all countries have small-scale fisheries, and they account for more than half of total production in developing countries, both in terms of quantity and value. Approximately 120 million workers worldwide—97 per cent of whom live in developing countries—depend directly on the value chains of commercial capture fisheries for their livelihoods. Women constitute nearly half of that workforce. Despite their critical contributions to nutrition, food security and local livelihoods, many small-scale fishing communities continue to be marginalized.

To help fisherfolk access productive resources, services and markets, most countries have developed targeted regulatory and institutional frameworks. Many countries have implemented those frameworks to a high degree, but more than one fifth of countries, particularly in Oceania and Central and Southern Asia, report a low to medium level of implementation.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Human activity continues to erode the health of ecosystems on which all species depend. The loss of forests is slowing but continues at an alarming rate; one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction according to a recent United Nations report, and an estimated 20 per cent of the Earth's land area was degraded between 2000 and 2015. Many countries are taking measures to conserve, restore and make sustainable use of those invaluable natural resources. They are adopting legal mechanisms to ensure the fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources, protecting more KBAs,

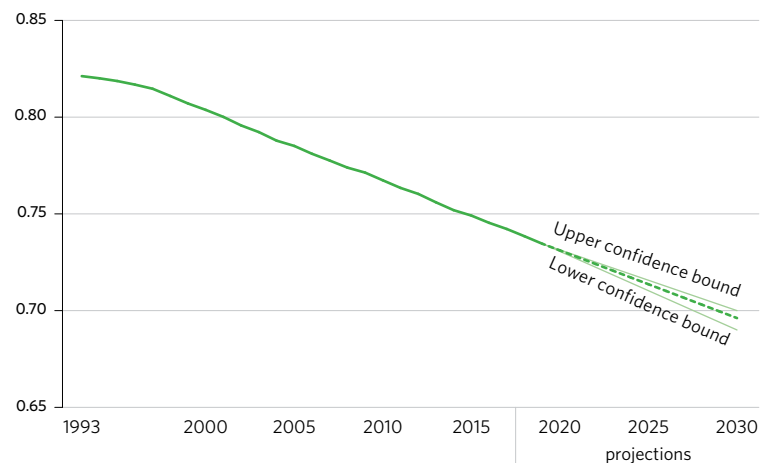
and implementing sustainable forest management plans. But those efforts must be scaled up—urgently. The severity of the situation requires immediate action and a fundamental transformation of our relationship with the Earth to halt biodiversity loss and protect ecosystems for the benefit of all.

Accelerating levels of biodiversity loss demand an emergency response

The loss of global biodiversity is accelerating, moving us closer towards unknown and irreversible changes to the Earth's ecosystems. According to the Red List Index, which tracks data on more than 20,000 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads, the risk of species extinction has worsened by about 10 per cent over the last 25 years. The Index declined from 0.82 in 1993 to 0.74 in 2018. Further, the latest report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services noted that biodiversity is declining faster than at any other time in human history.

The primary drivers of that assault are habitat loss from unsustainable agriculture, deforestation, unsustainable harvest and trade, climate change and alien invasive species. But even against such an ominous backdrop are numerous examples of species recovery following conservation interventions, including in small island developing States such as Fiji, Mauritius and the Seychelles. Accelerated action is needed to safeguard critically endangered species and mainstream extinction risk reduction across agriculture, industry, trade and other sectors.

Red List Index of species survival, 1993–2019, and projections for 2020–2030 (based on a business-as-usual extrapolation of the global indicator)

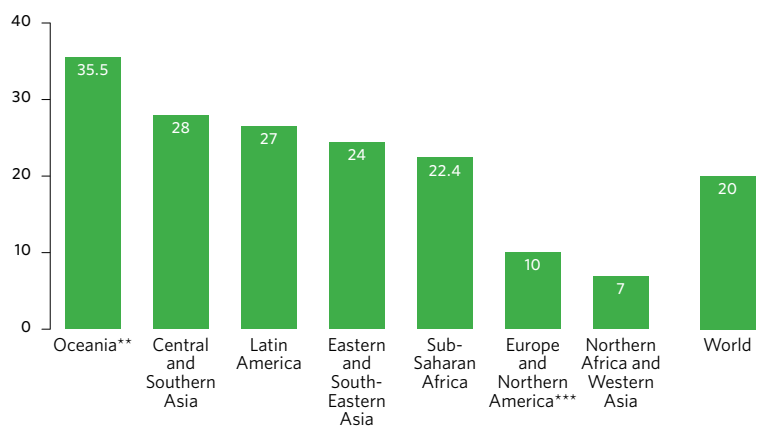


Land degradation is affecting one fifth of the Earth's land area and the lives of one billion people

Twenty per cent of the Earth's total land area was degraded between 2000 and 2015, resulting in a significant loss of services essential to human well-being. That estimate is relatively conservative given the underlying sub-indicators, which only represent three variables: changes in land cover, land productivity and organic carbon in soil. In all regions, except Europe and Northern America and Northern Africa and Western Asia, the extent of degradation covered 22.4 per cent to 35.5 per cent of land area, directly impacting the lives of over one billion people.

Global trends in land cover indicate a net loss in natural and semi-natural classes of land due largely to human-induced processes, including desertification, deforestation, improper soil management, cropland expansion and urbanization. Significant declines were also observed in the productivity of land cover classes that remained unchanged, with grasslands incurring some of the greatest losses.

Proportion of degraded land from 2000 to 2015 (percentage)



** Including Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, but excluding the islands of Oceania.

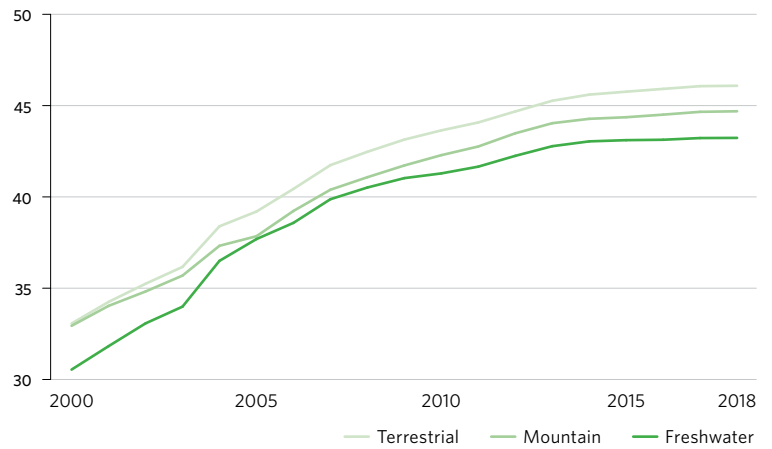
*** Excluding Switzerland and the United States of America.

Progress in protection of key biodiversity areas must accelerate to meet the 2030 target

Protecting sites that are important for terrestrial, freshwater and mountain biodiversity—KBAs—is vital to ensuring the long-term and sustainable use of natural resources. While progress has been made since 2000 in protecting KBAs, the rate of progress has slowed significantly since 2010.

The global mean percentage of each terrestrial, freshwater and mountain KBA covered by protected areas increased by more than 10 percentage points between 2000 and 2010. However, from 2010 to 2018, the coverage only increased by two to three percentage points. At the current rate, by 2030, less than 50 per cent of each KBA will be covered by protected areas at the global level, on average.

Mean proportion of terrestrial, freshwater and mountain KBAs covered by protected areas, 2000–2018 (percentage)

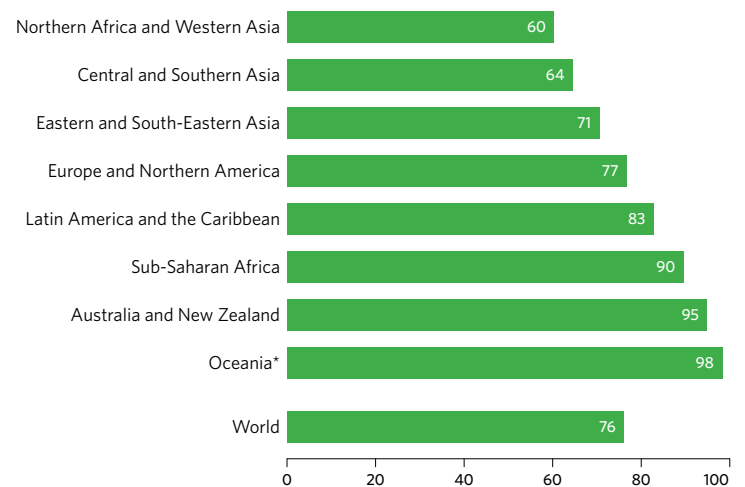


Mountain ecosystems provide essential environmental services, but their health varies widely among regions

Healthy mountain ecosystems are fundamental to the provision of ecosystem services to upland communities as well as lowland peoples living far from mountain peaks. For example, mountains are the source of 60 to 80 per cent of the world's freshwater, which is used for domestic, agricultural and industrial consumption, green energy production and biodiversity conservation. Green coverage of mountain areas (by forests, grasslands/shrublands and croplands) is positively correlated to mountains' state of health and, consequently, to their capacity to fulfil their ecosystem roles.

A global baseline of mountain area green coverage has now been established using 2017 data. That year, 76 per cent of mountain areas globally were covered with vegetation: in Oceania, almost all mountain areas were covered, while in Northern Africa and Western Asia, the share was only 60 per cent.

Proportion of mountain areas with green coverage, 2017 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Forest area is still declining, but at a slower rate

Between 2000 and 2015, forest area as a share of total land area decreased from 31.1 to 30.7 per cent. That represents the loss of more than 58 million hectares of forests, an area roughly the size of Kenya. Most of that loss occurred in the tropics, with the most sizable declines found in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. Conversion of forest land for agricultural use, such as growing crops and raising livestock, is considered a key driver in forest loss.

The loss of forests in some tropical regions is partly balanced out by an increase in forested land in many parts of Asia, as well as in Europe and Northern America. In those regions, active afforestation and landscape restoration, as well as the natural expansion of forests on abandoned agricultural land, have led to the growth of forested land.

As a result, the net annual rate of forest loss in 2010 to 2015 was roughly 25 per cent slower than in 2000 to 2005. Moreover, the proportion of protected forest area and forests under long-term management plans remained stable or increased in all regions of the world.

International agreements are forging innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation

Countries are making progress in adopting frameworks that incentivize the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and biodiversity through the sharing of benefits. Such resources include plants, animals, microbes and other genetic material and the traditional knowledge associated with them.

As of 1 February 2019, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization had been ratified by 116 contracting Parties, including the European Union (an increase of 65 per cent from 2016). As of that date, 61 Parties had also adopted access and benefit-sharing (ABS) frameworks and published related information in the ABS Clearing-House (up from 6 in 2016). In addition, 145 Parties had ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. As part of the treaty, over 64,000 standard material transfer agreements have been concluded for the transfer of more than 4.6 million samples of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture globally.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Realizing the goal of peaceful, just and inclusive societies is still a long way off. In recent years, no substantial advances have been made towards ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions at all levels, or increasing access to justice. Millions of people have been deprived of their security, rights and opportunities, while attacks on human rights activists and journalists are holding back development. More countries are ramping up efforts to uncover human rights abuses and designing laws and regulations that foster more open and just societies. But much more work is needed to ensure that these mechanisms are implemented properly.



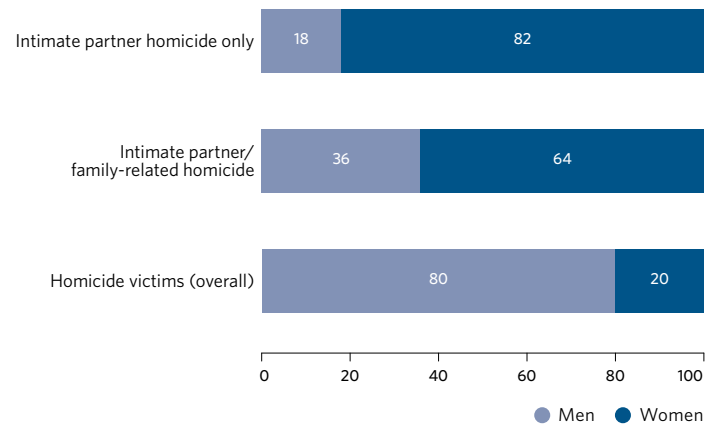
Conflict and other forms of violence are an affront to sustainable development. In 2018, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million, the highest level that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has seen in almost 70 years. All are particularly vulnerable to various forms of abuse, including trafficking, violence and non-inclusive decision-making. Ensuring that they receive adequate protection is paramount to achieving the goal of inclusive societies and sustainable development.

Young men are at higher risk of murder overall, while most victims of intimate partner homicide are women

The global homicide rate was roughly stable at around 6 per 100,000 people over the 2007–2017 decade, with the highest rates observed in Latin America and the Caribbean. The number of homicide victims increased by 11 per cent, from 419,000 in 2000 to 464,000 in 2017. Over that period, lethal violence was increasingly concentrated in two regions: Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 34 per cent of global homicides in 2017 (compared to 27 per cent in 2000), and the share in sub-Saharan Africa grew from 25 to 33 per cent.

Men made up around 80 per cent of homicide victims overall, but women constituted the majority (64 per cent) of murder victims in cases of intimate partner/family-related homicide. For intimate partner homicides only, the share of female victims was even higher at 82 per cent. Young men 15 to 29 years old faced the highest homicide risk overall with some regional variations.

Victims of homicide, by sex, 2017 (percentage)

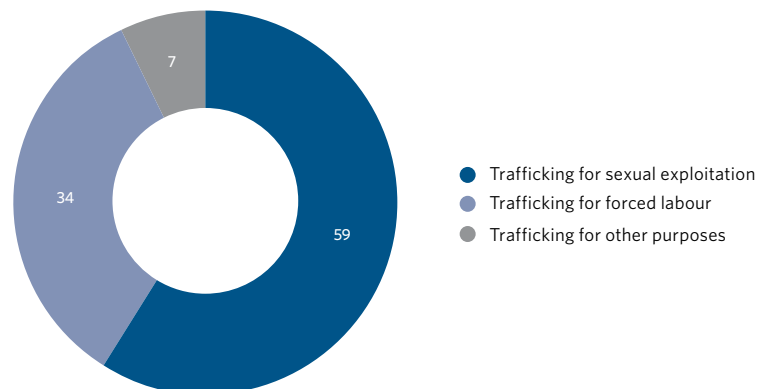


The majority of trafficking victims are taken for sexual exploitation and forced labour

In recent years, a growing number of trafficking victims have been detected in countries around the world: from an average of 150 detected victims per country in 2010 to 254 in 2016. The number of reporting countries remained roughly the same (93 in 2010 compared to 97 in 2016). The increase in the average number of detected victims per country may be a sign of increased efforts by authorities to identify victims; alternatively, it could reflect a growing trafficking problem. Contrary to findings from earlier years, most trafficking victims are now detected domestically.

In 2016, adult women comprised nearly half of the detected victims globally, and girls accounted for about 23 per cent. The majority of victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation (about 59 per cent), and more than a third were trafficked for forced labour. Victim profiles were different depending on the form of exploitation. While 83 per cent of the female victims in 2016 were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 82 per cent of the males were trafficked for forced labour.

Forms of exploitation among detected trafficking victims, 2016 or latest year (percentage)

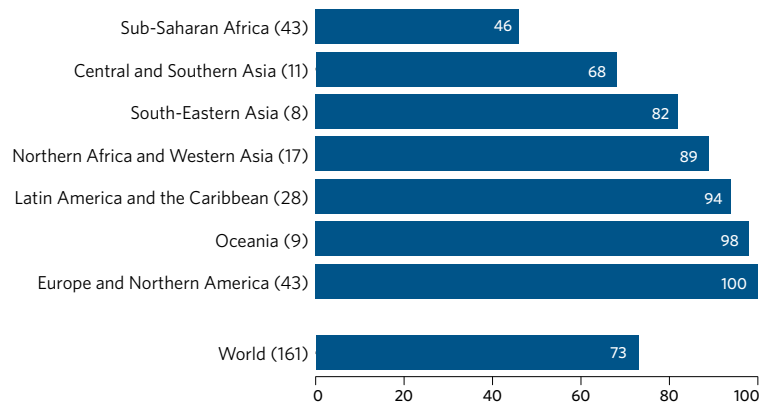


Note: Estimates are based on data provided by 110 countries reporting 24,687 detected victims.

Birth registration is a human right, yet less than three quarters of children under 5 years of age worldwide are registered

Birth registration is fundamental to helping people access their individual rights, such as basic social services and legal justice. Yet, less than three quarters (73 per cent) of children under 5 years of age worldwide have had their births registered, according to data from 161 countries over the period 2010 to 2018. Many countries and regions have reached universal or near universal coverage, but in sub-Saharan Africa, fewer than half (46 per cent) of all children under 5 years of age are registered. Central and Southern Asia and South-Eastern Asia also lag behind at 68 per cent and 82 per cent, respectively. Much work has been done recently to improve civil registration systems and to raise awareness among citizens, but continued efforts are needed to ensure that all children can claim their right to an identity.

Proportion of children under 5 years whose births have been registered with a civil authority, latest data from 2010 to 2018 (percentage)



Note: Based on 161 countries with global population coverage of 84 per cent. The number of countries with available data is in parentheses. Data for Eastern Asia are not shown due to low population coverage.

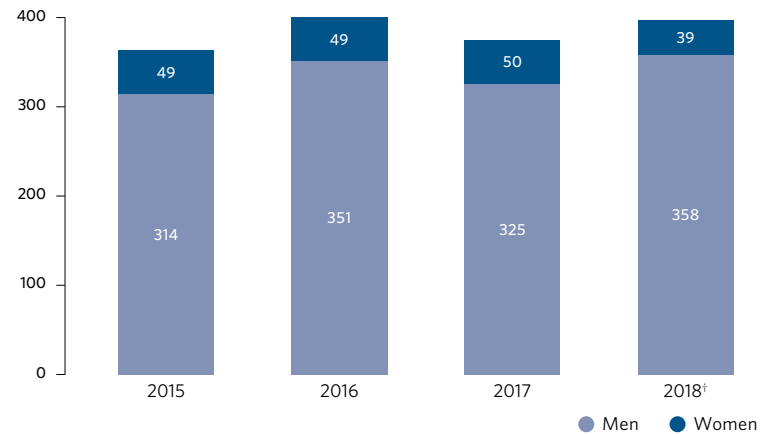
Murder rates among human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists are rising

From 1 January to 31 October 2018, the United Nations recorded and verified 397 killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 41 countries. Every week, an average of nine people were murdered on the front lines of efforts to build more inclusive and equal societies—a disturbing increase from the average of one victim per day from 2015 to 2017.

One in two victims had been working with communities on issues involving land, the environment, poverty, the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, or the impact of business activities. And, overall, every tenth victim was a woman. Journalists and bloggers constituted one quarter of the total number of victims killed, and most of these murders occurred outside of countries experiencing conflict.

Unless Member States live up to their international obligation to protect those who stand up for the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists will continue to be targets of assassination in countries around the world.

Number of cases of killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists, by sex, 2015–2018



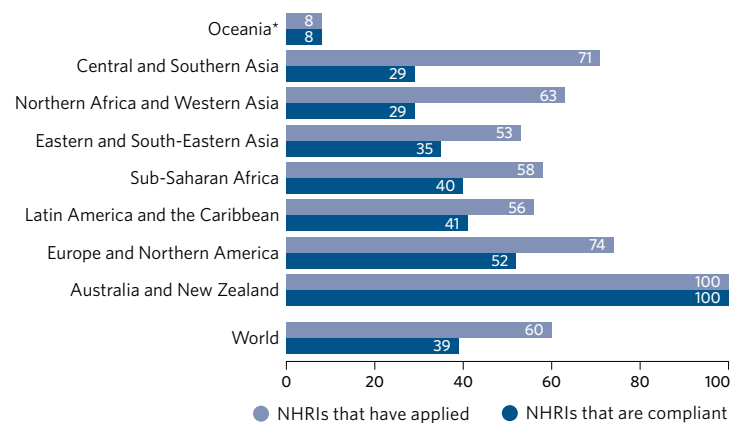
† Includes only incidents that occurred from 1 January to 31 October 2018. The figure does not include data on cases of kidnapping, forced disappearance, arbitrary detention or torture.

More countries are establishing legal and institutional frameworks for the defence of human rights, but the pace of progress is slow

Binding laws and policies giving individuals the right to access information held by public authorities have been adopted by 125 countries, with at least 31 countries adopting such laws since 2013. Expert assessments, however, suggest that in many cases, the legal framework could be improved. Among the 123 countries for which data on legal frameworks are available, 40 countries do not have adequate provisions on the right to appeal to an independent administrative body, which is considered key for the proper implementation of this right.

The pace of progress in establishing national human rights institutions (NHRIs) that are in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions (the Paris Principles) must be accelerated. In 2018, only 39 per cent of all countries had successfully achieved compliance; an increase of 3 per cent (7 countries) from 2015. If growth continues at the same rate, by 2030 only around half of all countries will have compliant NHRIs to ensure that States deliver on their human rights obligations.

Proportion of countries with human rights institutions that have applied for accreditation, and proportion that are in compliance with the Paris Principles, 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Support for implementing the SDGs is gaining momentum, but major challenges remain. A growing share of the global population has access to the Internet, and a Technology Bank for LDCs has been established, yet the digital divide persists. Personal remittances are at an all-time high, but ODA is declining, and private investment flows are often out of sync with sustainable development. Moreover, global growth has slowed due to ongoing trade tensions, and some governments have retreated from multilateral action. With the stakes



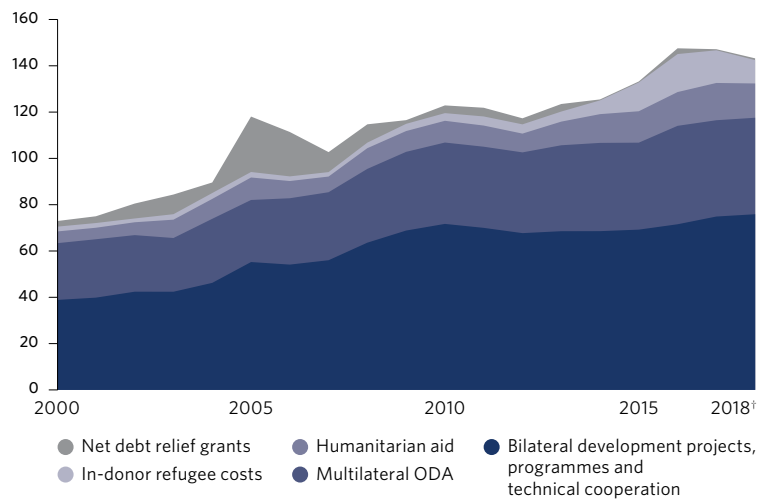
so high, strong international cooperation is needed now more than ever to ensure that countries have the means to achieve the SDGs.

Despite pledges to boost development financing, aid levels are falling

Net ODA totalled \$149 billion in 2018, down by 2.7 per cent in real terms from 2017. The decline was largely due to a reduction in donor country aid for hosting refugees. Aid for bilateral projects, programmes and technical assistance, which represents over half of total net ODA, rose by 1.3 per cent in real terms from 2017 to 2018. Contributions to multilateral organizations, which represent about one third of total net ODA, were stable. Humanitarian aid fell by 8 per cent in real terms.

ODA is the largest source of external financing for LDCs. Nevertheless, in 2018, less aid went to LDCs and African countries, where it is needed most. Preliminary figures indicate that bilateral ODA to LDCs fell by 3 per cent in real terms from 2017, and aid to Africa fell by 4 per cent. Donor countries are not living up to their pledge to ramp up development finance, tamping down efforts to achieve global Goals.

Components of net ODA flows, 2010–2018 (billions of constant 2017 dollars)



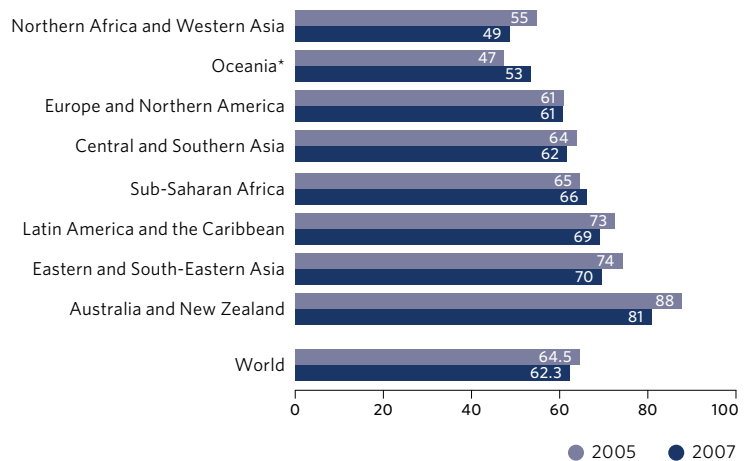
Effective mobilization of domestic resources, including through taxation, is critical to achieving the SDGs

The effective mobilization and use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, is vital to achieving the SDGs. Assessing the tax burden—that is, revenue in the form of taxes—is an important fiscal policy exercise with economic and social implications. The average overall rate of taxation among the Group of 20 and other advanced economies was 23 per cent of GDP in 2017, compared to 18 per cent among developing and emerging market economies.

On average, in 2017, the share of government expenditure funded by taxes was 64 per cent among the Group of 20 and other advanced economies and 61 per cent among emerging market economies. Globally, the slight reduction in the role of taxes in government spending—from an average of 64.5 per cent in 2005 to 62.3 per cent in 2017—may be attributable to a combination of improved revenue mobilization and public financial management.

A well-functioning revenue mobilization system is a prerequisite for strong, sustained and inclusive economic development. However, countries must custom-build the components of such a system and its overarching fiscal framework.

Share of government expenditure funded by domestic taxes, 2005 and 2017 (percentage)



Personal remittances from migrant workers abroad are becoming the largest source of external financing in developing countries

Total global remittances reached \$689 billion in 2018, up from \$633 billion in 2017. Remittances to low- and middle-income countries over that period rose by 9.6 per cent, reaching a record high of \$529 billion in 2018. That was more than three times the amount of ODA they received in 2018, and was significantly larger than foreign direct investment (if China is excluded). Remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to reach \$550 billion in 2019, making them the largest source of external financing in these countries.

However, the benefits of remittances from international migrant workers are reduced by the high cost of transferring money. In the first quarter of 2019, the average cost of sending \$200 was still high, at around 7 per cent. That is more than double the SDG target of 3 per cent by 2030. The cost of money transfers was highest across many African corridors and small islands in the Pacific, at about 10 per cent.

Trade tensions among the world's largest economies are reverberating, affecting producers and consumers worldwide

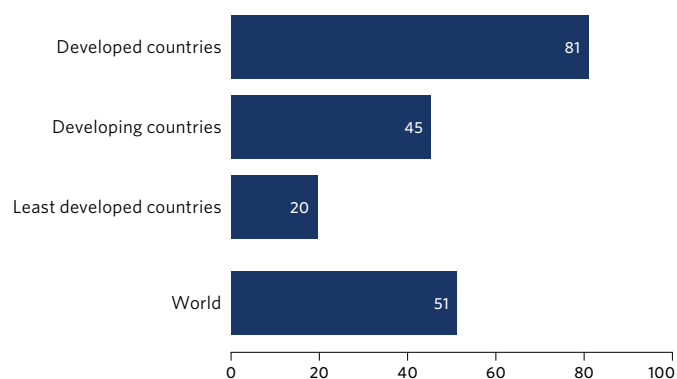
Decreasing tariffs provide wider access to goods and contribute to a more open trading system. However, ongoing and increasing trade tensions among large economies have adversely affected consumers and producers worldwide and negatively impacted business and financial markets. Those tensions also cast doubt on the future of a sound multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. In 2017, trade-weighted tariffs decreased to an average of 2.2 per cent worldwide. Large differences were found at the regional level, however, reflecting global economic imbalances. The highest tariff rates in 2017 were applied by sub-Saharan African and LDCs, averaging 7.1 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively, of the value of imported merchandise. Those tariffs were significantly higher than those applied by high-income countries (1.2 per cent) as well as developing regions as a whole (3.7 per cent). South-Eastern Asia had an import tariff rate of 1.7 per cent, indicating the region's growing openness to international trade.

More than half the world's population is online; attention must now be directed to the other half

The Internet can be a gateway to development, and a means of implementation for many of the SDGs. At the end of 2018, more than half the world's population (3.9 billion people) used the Internet—an important step towards a more inclusive global information society. Over 80 per cent of people in developed countries were online in 2018 compared to 45 per cent in developing countries, and only 20 per cent in LDCs.

Access to broadband networks is believed to have a significant impact on global economic output. An increase of 1 per cent in fixed broadband penetration—the number of subscriptions per 100 inhabitants—is associated with a rise of 0.08 per cent in global GDP, on average. The impact is higher in developed countries than in developing countries. Globally, growth in fixed broadband subscriptions has been sustained, with the penetration rate rising from 3.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2005 to 14.1 in 2018.

Proportion of population using the Internet, by country groupings and globally, 2018 (percentage)

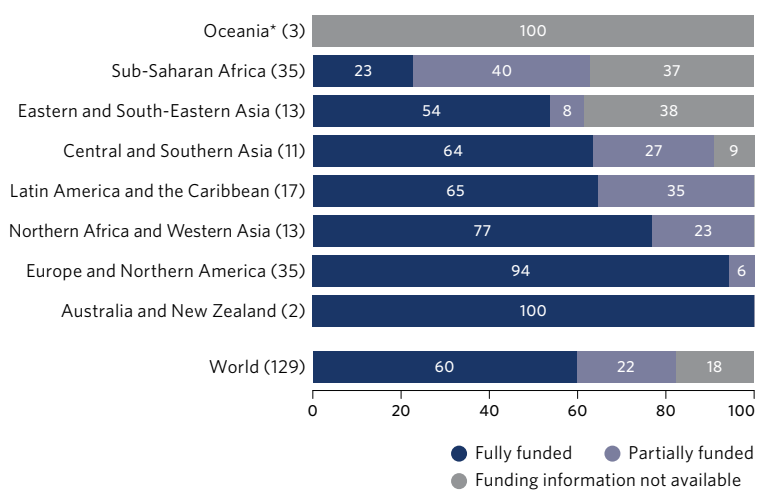


Financial support for statistics has increased, but is still not sufficient to meet demand created by the SDGs

The demand for high-quality, timely and accessible data for development planning is increasing. To meet that demand, countries need to establish a strong national statistical plan that has sufficient funding and political backing to improve statistical capacity across the national statistical system. In 2018, 129 countries worldwide had implemented a national statistical plan, up from 102 in 2017. However, many countries lacked the necessary funding to do so. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 23 per cent of plans were fully funded, compared to 94 per cent in Europe and Northern America.

In 2016, countries received support valued at \$623 million from multilateral and bilateral donors for all areas of statistics, up from \$591 million in 2015. Such support increased by almost \$400 million from 2006 to 2016, yet was still insufficient to satisfy data and statistical demands created by the SDGs. To meet statistical capacity-building objectives by 2030, current commitments to statistics—0.33 per cent of total ODA—need to double.

Proportion of countries with national statistical plans, by level of funding, 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Note: Numbers in parentheses reflect the number of countries for which a national statistical plan is under implementation.

Note to the reader

Global indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals

The information presented in this report is based on the latest available data (as of May 2019) on selected indicators in the global indicator framework¹ for the Sustainable Development Goals, which was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 (see resolution 71/313, annex). The global indicator framework is used to review progress at the global level.

The choice of indicators for this report does not represent a prioritization of targets, since all goals and targets are equally important. The composition of regions and subregions in this report is based on United Nations geographical divisions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, groups of countries for which a meaningful analysis could be carried out.²

Data sources and basis for the analysis

The values for most of the indicators presented in this report represent regional and/or subregional aggregates. In general, the figures are weighted averages of country data, using the reference population as a weight, and calculated from national data compiled by international agencies, according to their respective mandates and specialized expertise, from national statistical systems. The national data compiled by the international agencies are often adjusted for comparability and, where lacking, are estimated. As decided by the Statistical Commission and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, estimates used to compile the global indicators should be produced in full consultation with national statistical authorities. The criteria and mechanisms for validation by national statistical authorities are outlined in the report of the IAEG-SDGs³ and were endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fiftieth session.⁴

The collaboration between national statistical systems and regional and international organizations is essential for the effective flow of

internationally comparable data. Such mechanisms can be improved by strengthening the coordination function of national statistical offices in national statistical systems.

A database of available global, regional and country data and metadata for the SDG indicators accompanying this report is maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division and is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>. Owing to the emergence of new data and revised methodologies, data series presented in this report may not be comparable with previous data series.

Although the aggregate figures presented in this report are a convenient way to track progress, the situation of individual countries within a given region, and across population groups and geographical areas within a country, may vary significantly from regional averages. Presenting aggregate figures for all regions also obscures another reality: the lack, in many parts of the world, of adequate data to assess national trends and to inform and monitor the implementation of development policies.

Investing in data for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Quality data are vital for governments, development partners, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the general public to make informed decisions and to ensure an accurate review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Tracking progress on the SDGs requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at subnational, national, regional and global levels, including those derived from official statistical systems and from new and innovative data sources.

Many national statistical systems across the globe face serious challenges in this regard. As a result, accurate and timely information about critical aspects of people's lives is unknown. Numerous groups and individuals remain "invisible", and many development challenges are still poorly understood. In General Assembly resolution 70/1, United Nations Member States recognized the crucial role of strengthened data collection and capacity-building, and committed to addressing the gap (para. 57). The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, endorsed by the Statistical

Commission at its forty-eighth session in 2017, provides a road map for the modernization and strengthening of statistical systems.

Increased investments in national data and statistical systems and increased mobilization of international and domestic resources are imperative to meeting this urgent demand. The Dubai Declaration, launched at the World Data Forum 2018, calls for increased domestic and international resources and political commitment to strengthen data systems. It envisages a demand-driven funding mechanism, under United Nations membership oversight, that can respond quickly and efficiently to the priorities of national statistical systems. New data sources and technologies for data collection and for the integration of various data sources will need to be explored, including through partnerships with civil society, the private sector and academia. The integration of geospatial information and statistical data will be particularly important for the production of several indicators.

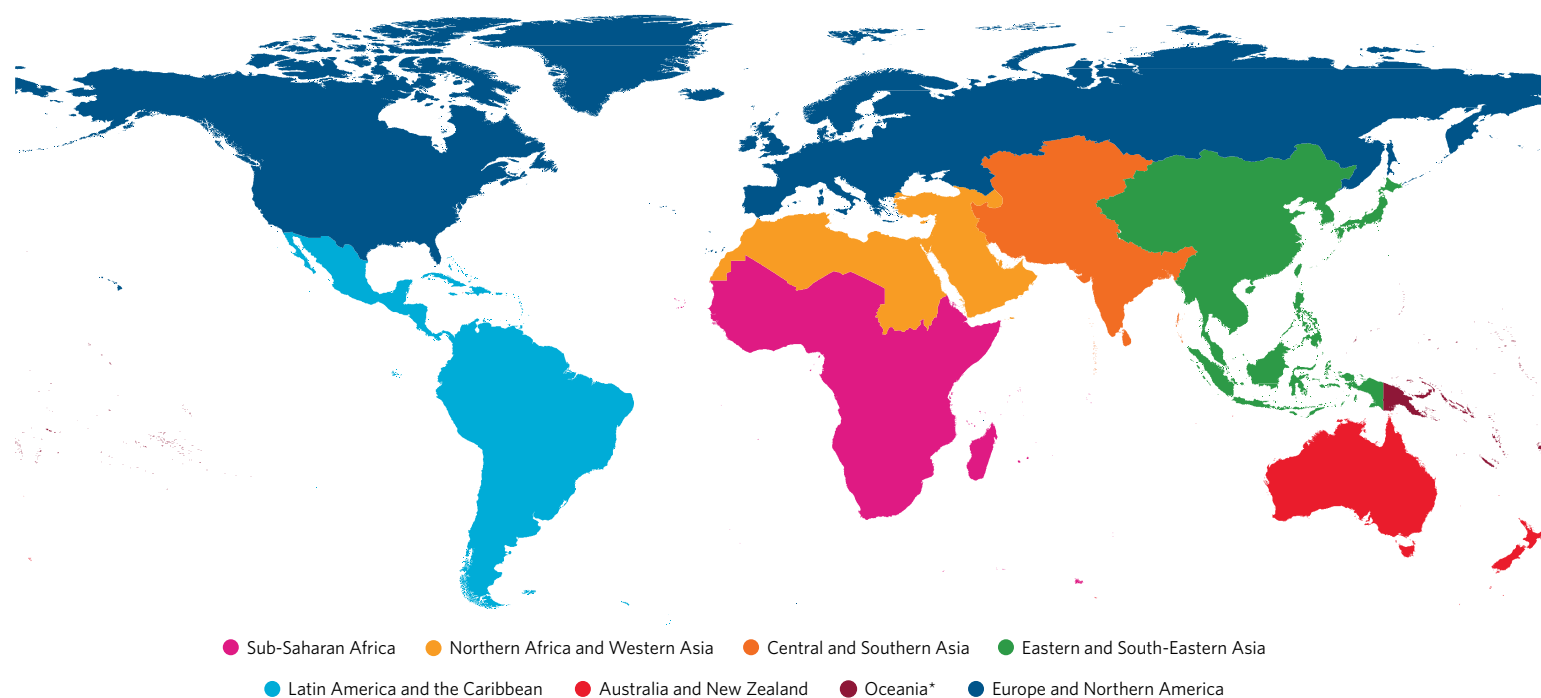
¹ The complete list of indicators is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list>.

² The composition of the subregions is shown in the section on regional groupings.

³ See Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2019/2), Annex I.

⁴ See Statistical Commission Report on the fiftieth session (E/2019/24-E/CN.3/2019/34).

Regional groupings



- Notes:
- Oceania* refers to Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand, throughout the publication.
 - The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

This report presents data on progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide and by various groups. The country groupings are based on the geographic regions defined under the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (known as M49)⁵ of the United Nations Statistics Division. The geographic regions are shown on the map above. For the purpose of presentation, some of the M49 regions have been combined.

The use of geographic regions as the basis for country groupings is a major change from *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016* and the progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals. Previously, data were presented for countries in “developed” regions and countries in “developing” regions, which were further broken down into geographic subregions. Although there is no established convention for the designation of “developed” and “developing” countries or areas in the United Nations system, data for some indicators in this report are still being presented for developed and

developing regions and countries for the purpose of statistical analysis only, and are based on the practice employed by the international agencies that provided the data.⁶

In addition, the text and figures present, to the extent possible, data for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, which are country groups requiring special attention.

A complete list of countries included in each region and subregion and country group is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups>.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

⁵ Full details of the M49 standard can be found on the Statistics Division website at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49>.

⁶ A discussion note, “Update of the regional groupings for the SDG report and database”, of 31 October 2016 describes the details of this change and is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups>.

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Energy Agency
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Renewable Energy Agency
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
International Trade Centre (ITC)
International Union for Conservation of Nature
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)
Peacebuilding Support Office, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
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Sustainable Energy for All
United Nations Capital Development Fund
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
United Nations Mine Action Service
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UN-Energy
UN-Ocean
UN-Water
World Bank Group
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

For more information, visit the Sustainable Development Goals website of the United Nations Statistics Division at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.



“The coming years will be a vital period to save the planet and to achieve sustainable, inclusive human development.”

— *ANTÓNIO GUTERRES*
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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